AICHOU

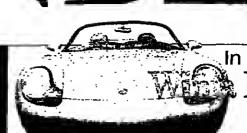
leanis

Section Two



Fly now Pay later

Interest-free credit on holidays, plus trips worth £25,000 to be won. See page 17 for Token 5



FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 1996 In tomorrow's Independent Porsche Borster

> Plus get the Independent on Sunday for 50p

EMU plans may collapse within weeks

France and Germany 'to pull out'

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Correspondent and SARAH HELM

The French and German governments will admit within weeks that the European Monetary Union may have to be postponed, senior British Government figures believe.

The recession in Germany and social unrest in France have made it impossible for EMU to go ahead in 1999 as planned, according to the Maas-tricht Treaty timetable, senior ministers say.

They believe that "the moment of truth is approaching - not about the principle of EMU but about the dates. A groundswell of public criticism by European political and fi-nancial leaders will force the French and German governments to clarify their intentions in the next few weeks, the

ministers say privately. They conclude that France and Germany will need to announce either a change to the date set for monetary union or a change 10 the rigid financial criteria for membership of the single currency imposed by the Maastricht Treaty. But there is agreement that the Government should remain officially silent while doubls are heaped on the project by some of its most fervent supporters, such as the former EU Commission give an enormous political

President Jacques Delors. The French and German governments announced yesterday that there was no question of re-examining the 1999 terms and timetable for EMU. But the public facade masks confusion and uncertainty, at least in Paris. Two senior French ministers hroke ranks with the official line yesterday, although one recanted later under gov-

minister, Franck Borotra, said that if he had to choose between Maastricht and jobs, he would choose jobs. The Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, told a French radio station that it might be useful to interpret the rigid EMU conditions on public spending more flexibly, as proposed on Wednesday by the former President, Valery Giscard d'Estaing. But Mr de



Helmut Kohl: Holds key to future of single currency

Despite mounting doubts about EMU across the continent, officials in Brussels said dire predictions in London of imminent collapse could be motivated in part by wish-fulfilment and a political decision boost to Mr Major, defusing Euro-sceptic attacks.

One official, close to EMU policy-making, said he was "astonished" to hear that British ministers were taking such an apocalyptic line, which was entirely out of tune with the official Foreign Office assessment. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, also told reporters this week that he still expected ernment pressure. The industry EMU to go ahead on schedule. sels next Monday.

people have raised questions this week should mean that suddenly everyone - the Germans included - are going to lose their cool and allow the thing to collapse in weeks seems extraordinary," said one source.

But senior British sources say all will depend on whether Chancellor Kohl of Germany can be prevailed upon to relax the financial conditions by President Jacques Chirac of France. who faces further domestic political upheaval if he pushes ahead with the rapid public spending cuts needed to qualify the franc for EMU membership. The verdict in London is that Chancellor Kohl will not he able to overcome monetarist resistance by the Bundeshank and doubts by German public

Particular attention has been attracted by the statement earlier this week hy the Spanish Minister Carlos Westendorp, one of the key players in driving forward formal proposals for closer European integration. Mr Westendorp said it might be necessary to "stop the clock" on EMU - in other words freeze the timetable, rather than formally admit to a delay.

British Ministers discount speculation on the financial markets that Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac could defy the scepties and stage a lightning move to link their currencies immediately, accompanied by a one time devaluation of the French franc. It is thought that any such move would generate "huge resentment" and among countries such as Italy. Spain and the Benelux. The crisis over EMU is certain to be discussed at least in the margins of a meeting of European Foreign Ministers scheduled to take place in Brus-

New Labour, new media, new message?



With yesterday's launch of New Labour's £2m media centre at Millbank Tower in central London the party's spin doctors will be slicker than ever. The 20,000, square feet super high-tech centre will

plete with its mysterious computer Excalibur, campaign project units, and key seats unit. Oh yes, there's

Facilities at the centre include state of the art lightbring together over 100 staff in the party's media of-fice, its famous "instant response" rebuttal unit - com-flat screen video walls and fibre optic link to hroad-

cast links "throughout the world", Tony Blair (centre!, John Prescott (second right), Rohin Cook (left), Tom Sawyer (second left) and Gordon Brown (in praying pose) were much in evidence at the launch and will all be based there during the next election cam-

Irish accuse Major of bad faith

COLIN BROWN and Katherine Butler in Stras

John Major lust night sought to heal a damaging rift with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, after British plans for elections to force a breakthrough in the stalled Northern Ireland peace process led to ac-cusations of a bad faith by Lon-

The disagreement threatened to sour relations hetween the two Prime Ministers. Mr Bruton and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, accused

ly, after being caught off-guard. The SDLP leader, John Hume, was wrong-footed, and on the defensive yesterday after appearing to condemn democratic elections, which he warned would lead to a "shouting

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said the prospect of a "shoutng match" was better than a "shooting match" and British officials angrily denied the Botish attitude threatened a return to

Tell that to the IRA, We are

Mr Major of acting unilateral- working our hutts off trying to as a political mugging and an new pre-condition hased on a find a mechanism that is acceptable to all the parties that gets us into all party negotia-tions," said one senior official.

Irish nationalist politicians vesterday remained unconvinced by British assurances that John Major's proposal of a new elected body was not a device to mollify Unionist MPs and to further postpone all-parly negotiations.

Much bitterness was evident both at Mr Major's sudden change of tack and by the way in which he went about it. which was variously described

ambush.

Dublin sources rejected Downing Street claims that the Taoiseach, John Bruton, had been properly informed by Mr Major in advance of his surprise Commons announcement. Sinn Fein president Gerry

Adams, meanwhile, said it was opposed to the proposal and ac-cused the Prime Minister of acting in bad faith. "Mr Major made to the two parliaments. rejected the core of the Mitchell report, scuppered the twintrack approach and the February date for all-party talks, and elections was something Duhlin in their place has produced a could "live with".

Unionist proposal," he said. Downing Street officials were stung by the reaction from the Irish Government and insisted that Mr Bruton had been kept fully informed of the British plans with a telephone call between the two Prime Ministers on Tuesday evening.

The Prime Minister's officials said Mr Bruton had given the impression that the proposal for

and in an exchange of their

slatements before they were

IN BRIEF Unlawful killing' verdict A jury yesterday returned a ver-

dict of unlawful killing at the inquest of an asylum seeker who died after a struggle with police officers who were trying to arrest him in Stoke Newington. Rifle execution

A child killer and rapist who said that he would rather die at the point of a rifle than by lethal injection awaited the first execution hy firing squad in the United States in 19 years early

Today's weather Very cold and windy with some Section Two, page 33



Official: loud rock music falls on truly deaf ears

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

Scientists have confirmed what parents have known for years: that ear-blasting rock concerts and long nights at discos can turn you deaf.

New research suggests that thousands of young people could develop serious hearing problems much sooner than their predecessors, where deaf-ness generally develops after the age of 60. It also suggests that noise from leisure pursuits has replaced workplace noise as the biggest risk to hearing. Yet there are no legal limits on the sound levels permissible at clubs or concerts - even if they would be illegal in a factory.

A study of 1,364 people aged between 14 and 40 in the city of Nancy, France, found that, of those who went to rock concerts once a month, 44 per cent showed symptoms of temporary hearing loss. This included ringing in the ears - tinnitus - and deadened hearing. The re-search, by a French hearing spe-cialist, also showed that almost two-thirds of those who went to concerts more than twice a

month had such symptoms. Meanwhile, in the UK, a wide-ranging study by the Medical Research Council in Nottingham indicates that young people who go regularly to clubs are three times more likely to complain of tinnitus. Dr Adrian Davis, who headed the resorted to ear-plugs.

conference in June that about 30 per cent of young British adults experience significant exposure to high levels of noise and complain of problems conducting conversations against a

Sound levels at rock concerts

background noise.

and chibs often top 100 decibels, compared to the legal level permitted by the Health and Safety Executive, which is an average of 85dB over eight hours. A number of rock musicians have suffered serious hearing loss, including Pete Townsend, the Who's guitarist, and the heavy metal band Metallica. Dr Davis said some bands and security staff at their concerts had

Howe rails against Scott **CHRIS BLACKHURST**

Westminster Correspondent

Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, yesterday launched a ferocious attack on Sir Richard Scott, as the Conservatives appeared to open a concerted preemptive strike against his arms-to-Iraq report, due next month.

Lord Howe castigated Sir Richard in The Spectator. Sir Bernard Ingham. Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, simultaneously fired another hroadside in the Daily Express, claiming Sir Richard, a senior judge, risked causing "grievous bodily harm" to the judiciary. Robin Cook, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "We had expected there to be a hacklash. The Conservatives are clearly worried about what the report might say".



Sir Richard Scott: Fierce attack on his procedures

Both authors pursued identical themes. "This is a story in which there are no villains," wrote Lord Howe. "British policy was in principle almost sanc-

timoniously virtuous. Almost

alone among the industrial nations, we had banned the supply of 'defence-related equipment to Iran and Iraq alike. From one or other of our competitors - the Soviet Union or Germany, China or France these weapons were always available. Not from Britain." Sir Bernard's article continued the theme: "Judges dry or wet - and Sir Richard is waterlogged - should not be asked to

pronounce on how governments have reconciled the national interest in the shifting sands of Middle East politics, when our less scrupulous competitors are scrambling for every arms contract they can lay

their hands on." Lord Howe lambasted Sir Richard for not allowing legal representation for witnesses.

which was recommended for in-

ARTS 8-9 CLASSICAL MUSIC 14-16 CROSSWORD 33 JOHN LYTTLE 7 LISTINGS 20-25

METRO 18,19 POKER 33 POP MUSIC 10-13 REVIEWS 9 TV & RADIO 26-35 WEATHER 33

quisitorial inquiries by the Salmon Commission in the 1960s. He said it was an elcmentary right for a witness to he examined hy one's own lawyer, and of having adverse evidence tested by cross-examination. "But not, astonishing-

ly, by the Scott Inquiry. Sir Richard, Lord Howe wrote, "had indeed explicitly dis-carded the established principles." This was echoed by Sir Bernard: "Sir Richard will make what are essentially political judgments after asionishingly adversarial hearings, which ignored half the principles for the conduct of inquiries laid down by Lord Justice Salmon in 1966.

Lord Howe criticised "Sir Richard's iconoclastic decision thus to engage himself at the in-quisitorial heart of matters".

ONE

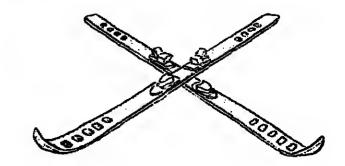
BUSINESS 16-20 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORD 24 LAW REPORT 12 LEADING ARTICLES 14 LETTERS 14 NEWS 2-11 OBITUARIES 12 SHARES 19 SPORT 21-24 UNIT TRUSTS 20

section

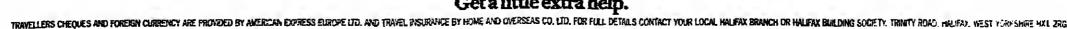


For more details call into your local Halifax hranch.

A Buy Back Service • Travel Insurance







IN BRIEF

emergency measurer while the

region's water shortage crisis

This is the judgement of

grew, it was revealed.

Yorkshire water faces drought rap Droughi-hit Yorkshire Water wasted two months last summer during which it failed to plan

Sexism storm as women-only book prize launches

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The founders of Britain's newest and largest book prize denied sexism at the launch of the award for women novelists

only yesterday. The Orange Prize for Fiction offers £30,000 for the best English-language novel of the year written by a woman, £10,000 more than the Booker Prize and £9,000 more than the Whitbread Book of the Year. II is

JOJO MOYES and HEATHER

A jury vesterday returned a ver-

dict of unlawful killing at the in-

quest into the death of an

asylum seeker who died while

in the custody of Stoke New-

Nigerian, died of asphysiation in December 1994 shortly after

he was involved in a struggle

with officers who were at-

tempting to arrest him on sus-picion of possessing drugs.

of a bad day for the Metropol-

itan Police's reputation. In one

court, the force paid out over

£90,000 in costs and damages to

a teacher, trainee solicitor and

award-winning photographer who claimed they had been as-

saulted, falsely imprisoned and

maliciously prosecuted by offi-

cers - one of whom had applied

a neck hold. In another, a for-

mer officer with 24 years service

was convicted of jury nobbling.

the Public Accounts Committee

lambasted Scotland Yard for

failing to notice that its its ac-

countant, Anthony Williams,

had stolen £5m from police

Meanwhile in the Commons.

The verdict came at the end

Shiji Lapite, a 34-year-old

aiming for the same literary high ground as the Booker, intending to "celebrate excellence. originality and accessibility". Women of all nationalities are eligible and the five judges will all be female.

Kate Mosse, the novelist who chairs the judges, said the prize had partly been sparked by the Booker Prize's 1991 shortlist when all six authors - including Martin Amis, Ben Okri and Roddy Doyle - were men. "It wasn't complaining,

Nigerian killed

unlawfully by

police, jury says

lice custody - was swift and

troversy about the use of neck

holds by police when controlling

suspects. Coroner Dr Stephen

Chan called upon the Associa-

tion of Chief Police Officers to

"ensure that all police officers are left in no doubt of the haz-

ards and danger of this prac-

Coles, co-director of Inquest,

which helps the families of

those who die in custody, said

the verdict was an indictment of

sulted from neck holds and yet

they haven't been banned and

therefore, there will remain a

Olamide Susan Jones, Mr

Lapite's wife, described the

hearing as "traumatic". She

added: "I'm relieved that my

children are going to grow up

to learn that their father was un-

The inquest, at St Pancras

Coroners Court, north Lon-

don, heard that Mr Lapite.

who had two children, had been

stopped for "acting suspicious-

in Clapton, east London,

lawfully killed by the police."

doubt about the accountability

of the police, she said.

Previous deaths have re-

After the verdict, Deborah

It has triggered fresh con-

from taste, tradition or expectation most women don't find their way onto shortlists and even fewer actually win," she

The Booker, which is open to Commonwealth writers, has shortlisted 153 writers since 1969. Of those, 57 have been women. In the same period it has had 29 winners, of whom 10 were women.

"Just imagine what people

During what officers Paul

Wright and Andrew McCal-

lum described as "a violent

struggle", PC Wright, 28, told

the court that Lapite had at-

tempted to strangle him, al-

though a Home Office pathologist said that "serious

doubt must be thrown on the al-legation" because of the lack of

marks around the officer's neck.

lum admitted kicking twice in

the head "as hard as he could",

was placed in a neck hold dur-

ing the struggle and eventually

overpowered. He was found to

have sustained a fracture to his

voice box, the cause of death be-

ing recorded as "asphyxiation,

Neither officer was able to ex-

Yesterday as the Crown Pros-

plain what Dr Chan described

as the "gross disparity" of in-

juries sustained by Lapite and

ecution Service said it would re-

consider its earlier decision not

to prosecute any of the officers

involved in Lapite's death, Scot-land Yard said the two officers

A spokesman said that it

would also be sending a dossier

to the Police Complaints Au-

remained suspended.

with a contributory cause of co-

caine intoxication".

the officers.

Mr Lapite, who PC McCal-

Everyone would see it as an Theory of War. enormous political statement. Ms Mosse said.

She acknowledged that in the last two months both the Booker and the Whitbread had chosen female winners - Pat Borker for The Ghost Road and Kate Atkinson this week for Behind the Scenes at the Museum.

"But that is very, very rare.

It has never happened before."
she added. Whithread has had

A force under fire: Day of shame for Scotland Yard as inquest finding adds to woe over damages defeat

stamping our feet and saying would say if Booker released a only one previous female win-This isn't fair'. But whether shortlist with only women. ner since 1985 – Joan Brady for take the winner of this serious-

The crucial question for the founders of the Orange Prize is whether the best women writers will want to associate themselves with an award arguably tainted by the "lame-duck"

Eighteen months ago the late Sir Kingsley Amis belped derail its original launch when be said disdainfully: "If I were a woman, I would not want to

The then sponsors, Mitsubishi, pulled out and have been replaced by Orange, the mobile phone company. Yesterday A S Byatt, the

1990 winner of the Booker for

Possession, was unsure whether she would wish to enter. "I am against anything which ghet-toises women. That is my deep-

est feminist emotion, she said. "I think these women judges

should be asked in each year of the Booker which women had written a very important book thal should have been shortlisted. My opinion is for the last 10 years or so it is observable that there have not been as many good women writers as

The first Orange Prize will be awarded on 15 May. Novels published in the UK between I April last year and 31 March this year are eligible; entries will be submitted by publishers.

Government inspector Stuart Nixon, who held a public inquire into the company's application for an emergency drought order last November. If granted it would have allowed Yorkshire Water to cut off more than half a million people for 24 hours in every 48.

The inquiry report, just pub-lished after being sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment John Gummer, says through September and October it acted as if it was dealing with a minor drought. In the end some winter rainfall led to Yorkshire Water withdrawing its application. Mr Nixon recommended the emergency order should have been granted, with strict conditions.

Gascoigne charged

An Italian judge ordered English soccer international Paul Gascoigne to stand trial on a charge of assaulting a photographer during a scuffle in Rome in January 1994, where he played for Lazio, judicial sources said. The trial will take. place next October.

MPs' pay claim

Over 100 staff of the House of Commons earn more than an MP's salary, it was revealed. There are 50 clerks, 19 librarians and 19 editors of Hansard, the official report of the House's proceedings, who earn more than the basic £33,189 salary for MPs, a parliamentary answer confirmed.

Suicide blood link

Dutch scientists have explained a link between low cholesterol levels and the high risk of violent death and suicide, says a re-port in the British Medical Journal, Blood samples from more than 30,000 men showed those with low cholesterol levels also had low levels of serotonin, known to occur in depressed and suicidal people.

Strike peace offer

A peace formula is to be put to a postal ballot of sacked Liverpool dockers in an attempt to end a four month conflict which has cost the Mersey docks com-pany £4m. The 329 port workers, who were dismissed for refusing to cross picket lines. have been offered compensation of up to £25,000.

Dead baby case

The fate of a British woman new born haby was set to decided late yesterday in a New York court. Caroline Beale. 30. from Leytonstone, east London. was arrested 16 months ago at the city's Kennedy airport carrying the dead baby girl under ber coat. Prosecutors say despite ber "delicate mental condition" she will face trial unless she agrees a plea hargain.

Lord Eliot - Apology On 22 December 1995 The fudependent carried an erroneous report of the arrest of Lord Jago Eliot for possession of cannabis plants at his Cornish home. We wrongly stated that £30,000-worth of cannabis. including cannabis chocolates had been found there, when this had in fact been seized in unconnected raids in the area on the same day. We apologise unreservedly to Lord Jago Eliot for our error and for any distress

or embarrassment caused.

joy that turned to terror

Shiji Lapite had plenty of cause to celebrate on 15 December 1994, writes Jojo Moyes. The Nigerian father-of-two who had lived in Britain uneventfully for three years had that day been given leave to stay, pend-ing consideration of his claim for

He was last seen shortly before midnight after popping in to his favourite restaurant in north-east London, where he bought drinks for his friends.

picture of him as a violent. drug-crazed drunk who was out of control and that was a tactic which really backfired on them," said Ken Fero, a family friend yesterday.

described Joy Gardner. They were even using the same words: 'the most violent woman I've ever come across'."

His friends and family say be was a "deeply religious" man. They are at a loss to explain the 41g of crack cocaine which was apparently placed by a tree by Lapite shortly before his arrest

Lapite sustained 45 injuries

ended to be unconscious'

Ten minutes later, according to police reports, Lapite had become "the most violent man I have ever come across"; a man whose extreme strength and aggressiveness, they said, suggested the use of crack cocaine. He had also grown three inches, to 6ft 1, instead of the 5ft 10 recorded by a Home Office pathologist.
The police tried to paint a

They used that when they

"He didn't take drugs," says had been staying shortly before

during his arrest. One witness described how he had heard terrible screams, like someone was being burt", before he saw Lapite being carried into a po-According to the arresting of-

ficers, from Stoke Newington police station, Lapite, had "pre-When the officers realised that Lapite's condition had deteriorated, he was taken to nearby Homerton Hospital where he was pronounced dead.
"We still feel there's a lot more

that needs to be revealed about what happened and what's happening in Stoke Newington in general," said Mr Fero.

The Lapite verdict - the secshortly before midnight on Dethority to see if any disciplinary ond unlawful killing verdict in cember 15 1994 by two plain action should follow. Warnings about neck holds failed to prevent death

Home Affairs Correspondent

Senior police officers have long recognised neck holds were dangerous to the point of being lethal - but have always fallen short of a total ban on their use.

When Shiji Lapite was ar-rested in December 1993, official guidance stated that strangleholds should be used

only as a last resort.

Those guidelines were issued by chief police officers following an inquiry and inquest into the death of Oliver Pryce, were brought. However, last

CHRIS BLACKHURST

In one of the most bizarre Gov-

ernment sell-offs, the buildings

management arm of the Prop-erty Services Agency was sold for £10.4m, but the taxpayer was

left holding a bill for £280m in

dit Office, the public finance watchdog, issued today, lays

hare the details of the scheme.

In 1993, the five regional

branches that comprised the

PSA's building management di-

vision were bought by four sep-

A study by the National Au-

another 30-year-old black man. Mr Pryce, suffering a mental breakdown, had hurled himself into the path of a slow-moving

Police called to the scene grabbed him in a neck lock, bundled him face down into the back of a van and drove him to a police station. On arrival, he was found to have stopped

breathing. As in Mr Lapite's case, the inquest jury decided Mr Pryce had been "unlawfully killed" - but no charges or disciplinary action

Government sell-off left

taxpayers a £280m bill

£10.4m, although the buyers of three of the five - North-East, South-East and South-West -

were allowed to delay payment

for up to five years, while the purchaser of BM Manchester

was in effect paid £11.5m to take

To pave the way for the sale,

the total workforce was re-

duced from 15.000 in April

1990 to 6,700 in September 1993. Joh cuts before the sale

cosi £135.3m. The Government

also agreed to pick up the bill

for redundancies after the sale,

costing £146.4m, making a

As part of the deal, PSA fur-

grand total of £281.7m.

it off Government hands.

admission of liability - did pay undisclosed but "substantial" damages to Mr Pryce's family.

And there have been others who have died following the ap-plication of head or neck holds. Clinton McCurbin died in Wolverhampton in 1987, James Davey in Littlepark police sta-tion, Coventry, in 1983. Winston Rose and Nicholas Ofusu, both mentally ill black men, died in police stations, in 1981 and 1983, after inhaling their own vomit and John Lamaletie died of a stroke, nine days after he

went hust within five years of the sale and staff who moved

across, lost their jobs. This could

lead to a bill for an extra £51m

clear figures on the cost of

closing the division, rather than

selling it off. The NAO said it

was unable to conclude whether

it made more economic sense

to shut the five hranches down.

for the taxpayer, the privatisa-

tion cost £14m, the hulk of

which went to City accoun-

tants. Coopers & Lybrand, KPMG Peat Marwick and Ernst

Despite raising just £10.4m

The DoE was unable to give

for the public purse.

year, Cleveland police - in a rare admission of liability - did pay caused a blood clot in an artery leading to his brain.

Neck locks can cause death in seconds, by obstructing the flow of blood to or from the hrain or by triggering a rellex ac-tion in the carotid artery which can cause sudden cardiac arrest.

Professor Bernard Knight, a consultant Home Office pathologist, says they should be used only in truly life-threatening situations: "They are dangerous holds that can never he controlled in a struggle," he told the Independent.

IAN Mackinnon

A jobless gardener who walked lot miles for an interview be-

cause his JohCentre would not

pay the coach fare will have to

wait a further two weeks to hear

if his marathon trek has paid off.

emerged from his interview at

a recruitment agency still bitter

that he had been forced into the

five-day march to try to land the six-month contract.

that his JobCentre was unable

to to pay the £18.50 return fare

under the Travel to Interview

Scheme because the job work-

ing as a gardener abroad was for less than a year.

Government policy dictates

Chris Owen, 26, yesterday

in recent years, to use neck holds, but those skilled in martial arts or those who have served in the military have been known to use them. The Lapite inquest jury heard that PC Paul Wright, who had held Lapite in the neck lock, had previously served in the Army, According to one senior officer, others have used them "instinctively" when in violent struggles.

women have not been trained.

Following Mr Lapite's death. the Association of Chief Police Officers issued new guidance to

tential employer, refused to

disclose the name of the com-

pany that is recruiting garden-

ers to work in Italy. Greece,

Richard Morgan, 31, who had accompanied him, were making

their way back to Cwmbran, Gwent, courtesy of British Rail. Eric Forth, the Employment

minister, said: "If someone

wants to dramatise his position

by doing [that], that is entirely

a matter for him. Labour's em-

ployment spokesman, Michael

Meacher, said it was "absolutely absurd" that the Joh Centre

had refused to pay the farc.

Last night he and his friend

Corsica, Sardinia and Italy.

Jobless gardener walks

160 miles to interview

Tory candidate backed Karadzic

JOHN RENTOUL Mr Owen, concerned thatmedia attention would deter his po-Political Correspondent

In fact, policemen and all forces, warning of the dan-romen have not been trained, gers of neck and strangleholds

Labour yesterday demanded that the Prime Minister repudiate John Kennedy, a Tory parliamentary candidate who has defended a Bosnian Serb leader accused of war crimes.

and stressing that they should

only he used in exceptional cir-

cumstances and officers would

have to justify that it was a "rea-

But there remain concerns

about the lack of thorough

training and instruction in the

use of control and restraint

generally. In November, an in-

quest jury again returned a ver-dict of "unlawful killing" against

the Metropolitan Police in the

case of Richard O'Brien, who

died after a struggle with police.

sonable" use of force.

Mr Kennedy, originally John Gvozdenovic, has spoken on tetevision seeking to explain the actions of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Sorb leader wanted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal on charges of genocide for ethnic cleansing".

More recently, Mr Kennedy, without naming Mr Karadzie, said that anyone against whom there is evidence must answer

charges.
Calum Macdonald, a Labour
MP interested in Bosnia, said: Karadzie has the blood of thousands of innocent civilians on his hands. It is an absolute disgrace that an apologist for an indicted war criminal should be selected as a Tory candidate. I shall be writing to the Prime Minister today calling upon him to dissociate himself from

the views of Mr Kennedy." Mr Kennedy, who has denied being an apologist for Mr Karadzic, was selected eight weeks ago as the Conservative candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, a new marginal seat in the West Midlands.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD Austria Sch40 N'lands FI5.00 Belgum BR80 Italy 14,500 CananasPts300 Madeura ... Esc325 Ovorus43 cents Denmark.....Dkr18 Norway..... Mr20 Insk Rep45p Portugal ... Esc325 France Fr14 Spart Pts300 Germany ... DM4.5 Sweden, ... Skr20 Greece Dr450 Switzerland . Str4.00 Luxembourg ...LF60 -USA \$3.00

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS Ar mail, 13 weeks, Europe £119.76; Zone 1 (Mddie East, Arcelica, Africa and India) £184,08; Zong 2.(Far East and Australasia E206,70, To onset, please

send cheque payable to Johnsons International Motie Services (ad to-43 Milliambour, London E14 STR artelethore 0171-536 6266. Credit casts welcome. BACK ISSUES

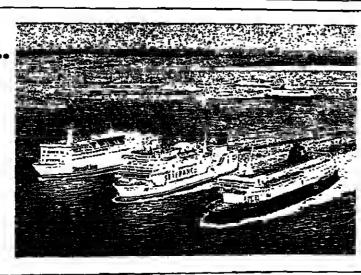
Back recurs of the indepoledant are available to Historic Newspapers, telephone 0985 402456.

Total net proceeds were ther guaranteed redundancy

the shortest sea route to France.

Large, luxurious car ferries with shops, restaurants and entertainment on board, plus hovercraft, provide rapid, comfortable crossings with a departure every thirty minutes. Fast on and off loading on both sides of the Channel helps to speed your journey. Instant motorway occess from

European motorway network.



For a shopping day, a relaxing stay or for immediate access to motorway...

DOVER/CALAIS OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE. SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPEED.

Law Society hit by fresh split over fees

The Law Society was damaged by further splits yesterday over plans to hike conveyancing fees. and tabloid coverage of the personal life of the president, Martin Mears, writes Stephen

Mr Mears' pledge to stamp out cut-price conveyancing and boost solicitors' incomes was one of his key promises when he was voted in last year in the first contested election for 40 years. But yesterday the Law Socicty was given counsel's opin-

ion that almost all the ways Mr Mears and his deputy. Robert Sayers, planned to try to impose minimum fees would be unlawful price-fixing.
Their only remaining possi-

bility is a scheme to refuse insurance cover to solicitors who charge low fees, but they conceded at a meeting of the Society's ruling council that they would have to delay while they appointed independent experts to try to establish that cheap solicitors made more claims.

Calais begins with sea..

RELAX and just cruise across from Dover to Calois -

Colois port provides on open door to the entire

Ernie cuts back on Premium Bond winners

NIC CICUTTI and REBECCA FOWLER

Ernic, the computer genius whose whirrings have sent frissons through generations of Premium Bond holders, has suddenly turned mean.

His masters at National Savings, who bave been paying out an average of 390,000 prizes a month, announced vesterday that they will be cutting that number down to 350,000. Although the £1m jackpot

and other prizes down to £500 will remain and in some cases be boosted, reflecting the National Lottery's hig-money ap-peal among the public, the chances of winning £100 or £50 will drop significantly. National Savings said yes-

terday that its decision to cut the number of small prizes was prompted by the need to bring down the amount paid out each month. From May onwards payouts will decline from 5.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent of all Bonds

in each monthly draw. A spokeswoman said: "We found that although people still wanted to be in with a chance to win hig prizes each month, they were less worried about the £50 or £100 ones. I suppose attitudes towards hig wins are similar to the National Lottery, except that in our case the top prize is

still far smaller."
For those who like to calculate the odds on every bet, the chances of winning a Premium to 1 compared with better than last double rollover earlier this tery, said the apparent decline month, when three winners in enthusiasm for talking about chances of winning the £1m jackpot remain at 58 million to one, compared to odds of 14 million to one against scooping the National Lottery. However, that has not put off punters. Queues for tickets for this week's rollover jackpot, expected more than £40m, are breaking all records.

But the lottery is no longer the frenzied conversation on

shared £42.5m. Despite the lack of mania surrounded the latest doubte rollover, ticket sales are still expected to exceed all previous records. They are already up by 150 per cent on normal

Almost every adult in Britain is expected to have a flutter this weekend, but Leslie Reid, emeritus professor of psychology at Exeter University who has studied the effects of the lotthe lottery was typical.

What the lottery depends on is that while not everyone gets a reward, there is a vicarious sense if people you know have won. This is why the lottery peo-ple are so keen to display win-ners. They are also anxious to tell you it's great fun, but there

isn't really any great sense that people are having fun at all."

The lack of faith that people have in their chances of winning

is supported by the number of unclaimed prizes. More than £20m is unclaimed, and a further £26.2m bas already heen added to the good causes fund from prizes that were not claimed with the 180-days time limit. Six players have failed to

claim prizes ranging from £94,000 to £146,000. One winner who bought his winning ticket in Oldham, Greater Manchester, last summer has only another two weeks to cash in his £94,239 ocket.

The five other big unclaimed prizes are: £146,245 - the ticket was bought in the Torquay area for the 30 September draw, last date for ctaim is 20 March, £109,892 – ocket bought in the Liverpool area for 16 December draw and the september draw area for 16 December desired to the september desired to the s ber, claim deadline is 5 June: £102,262 - ticket bought in the Cardiff area for 23 September draw, ticket must be redeemed by 13 March: and £104,746 two tickets bought for the 6 January double rollover draw, deadline runs out on 27 June

Turkey embraces English girl-bride

Kahramanmaras and STEVE BOGGAN

A groundswell of popular indignation swept Turkey yesterday over attempts by the High Court in Britain to bring the 13-year-old bride, Sarah Cook,

The schoolgirl from Braintree, Essex, is fast hecoming a religious and cultural cause celebre in her adoptive country as anger grows over the continued imprisonment of ber Turkish hushand on statutory rape charges.

Hopes that Sarah would return to England "forthwith", as Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division of the High Court, ordered on Wednesday. appeared to be in vain when her hushand, Musa Komeagac, 18. was remanded in custody until 15 February.

Bur 1 18 1 1833

E : --

He is being held on statuto-ry rape and abduction charges m Kahramanmaras, south-eastern Turkey, which Sarah has made her home since marrying him two weeks ago.

Opinion in the town and in the country's media is undivided: the couple should be left alone. Outside the court yes-terday a man shouted to applause: "You meddling English. We will make you accept that Sarah is ours. For us, marrying at this age is absolutely normal."



Aslan Yildirim, said: "As much as the British courts say they are looking after Sarah's interests, we will look after them here. They are not officially married, but it is considered a marriage according to our customs,"

Mr Yildirim was backed by the town mayor, Ali Sezal vowed that he would himself legally marry Sarah and Musa when she turns 14 on 2 September, and would give a joh to Musa, who is unemployed.

The chief prosecutor said he would make a decision about an application by lawyers to include Sarah's mother, Jackie, in the suit along with Musa. Ali, Musa's father, and a man who performed the illegal wedding ceremony are named in the in-The provincial governor, dictment Normally, girls under didn't specify a date."

15 cannot marry in Turkey. The Turkish press bas united behind the couple, Feminist commentators have praised her defiant statements of love, while Islamist newsheets have trumpeted that the case shows the superiority of Islamic Sharia law.

The order making Sarah a ward of court is not hinding in Turkey and, according to the Lord Chancellor's department, there are no legal moves designed to persuade the Turkish courts to comply with it.

Nor is the apparent failure by Sarah's mother to hring her daughter home likely to trouble the High Court. "The judge used the word 'forthwith', and that doesn't really have a definition," said one source. "He



Reunian kiss: Thirteen-year-old Sarah Cook is reunited with her mother Jackie in Turkey, and (above left) on her wedding day flanked by her Turkish in-laws and 18-year-old husband Musa Komeagac

'If she goes, Musa's youth will be snuffed out'

year-old Sarah Cook as she reached out to hold the hand of her mother, Jackie, Her head nuzzled into the neck of her new Turkish "mother-in-law", to

whom she gave a loving kiss. The three sat side-by-side on a bed in a typically Turkish family scene in the eastern town of Kahramanmaras. But all were exhausted by a second sleepless night, caught up in the storm caused by Sarah's underage "marriage" to her holiday sweetheart, 18-year-old Musa Komeagac.

It was after 2am, and a Turkish friend had hrought me to the unpainted three-storey concrete huilding where they are staying in this busy market town. Jackie Cook had just

flown in from London. Newly pressed into her handbag was a writ, in intimidating legal lanthe next six years in fail. guage, apparently ordering her

within two weeks, or else. I was there to translate for them from Turkish, hut it soon struck me that the Cook family were in need of much more belp than that.

to hring her daughter hack,

They listened with little comment to the views of a local lawyer, retained by the Komeagac family, Selim Surmen. Over and over again Mr Surmen pushed the same message as he has given in public: his view -Sarah returns to Britain, then

custody on charges of underage sex earlier this week, will spend

"If she goes, then Musa's youth will be snuffed out. She must stay here for the eight months until she turns 14. Then we can get the judge's permis-sion for her to marry, Musa will get out of jail and everybody will live happily ever after," Mr Surmen said in an interview afterwards.

The terrible dilemma of their situation could be read on the tired faces of Mrs Cook and her daughter, who appear not to have known that the "marpossibly inaccurate - that if riage" two weeks ago was ille-Sarah returns to Britain, then gal in Turkey. British officials They and a group of young rel-Musa, who was remanded in have warned them not to speak atives occasionally offered

publicly about their case, but be-hind their formal "no comments" it seemed clear they had little idea what was best to do and they had nobody to give them impartial advice. Representatives of the Sun, who had hitherto assumed the role of guards and guides, were sud-

Their problem is likely to grow worse as the officials and people of Kahramanmaras adopt Sarah's love for, and "marriage" to, Musa as a cam-

denly absent.

Sarah's "in-laws" listened supportively as the debate moved backwards and forwards.

Sarah chunks of hread, cheese and olives from the family's predawn meal. It is Ramadan the Muslim holy month of fasting between suprise and supset.

Her "father-in-law", Ali, is a slight man with kind, quick eyes who has done well out of 15 years as the caretaker of a downtown Kahramanmaras apartment block, carning enough to buy a flat or two, a shop and a car. Her "motherin-law", Esma, has a gentle, smiling face and often showed her affection by hugging and stroking her new "daughter-inlaw, who responded with pup-py-like charm.

The "in-laws" showed as much concern for what might

happen to Sarah's parents in Britain as what might happen to their son, hut they spoke harely three words of English be-

still elementary. Sarah, her pale face puffed up with lack of sleep, was by turns attentive and humorous in a schoolgirlish way, then unable to remember the name of the British Embassy official who had come to discuss her legal position, let alone the sub-

tween them. Sarah's Turkish is

stance of what she was told. After two honrs, there seemed to be no way forward and no way back for the Cooks. The mother's face was dark and lined after her long flight, the legal sanctions and the verbal at-

The wedding henna still stained the palms and fingernails of 13- Hugh Pope went to meet Jackie Cook and her daughter's new 'family' in Kahramanmaras tacks from neighbours. Abusive callers had even reached Sarah in Kahramanmaras.

> Conversation continued fitfully into the night. Finally, a message was produced from Musa in jail, that spoke of his love for Sarah, how everyone should think of her first but that "he did not know what he would do" if Sarah decided to

obey the court and leave. Sarah fled the room in tears, apparently believing that this meant Musa would kill himself. The room fell quiet. A canary warbled in a cage hanging from the stove pipe, and from the cold earth tracks outside came the booming heat of the Ramadan drummers, waking up the townspeople for a new day of fasting and avid debate about their adopted "bride".

Briton to create Holocaust memorial

REBECCA FOWLER

Rachel Whiteread, the controversial British sculptor, bas been chosen to create a memorial to Austria's 65,000 Holocanst victims. Her design, an enormous cement library, will be the first monument erected in the centre of Vienna in memory of those who died.

Ms Whiteread's sculpture

will consist of a giant cast of a real library room measuring 4 metres hy 7 by 10. The work, which will be paid for by the City of Vtenna, will be erected in Judenplatz, the heart of the old Jewish quarter and the home of many families who did not escape the Holocaust.

In Austria alone 65 synagogues were torched and endless homes and shops owned by Jews were destroyed on the Reichkristallnacht, the night the Nazis ushered in their violent persecution of the Jews. The monument will be unveiled on the anniversary of that night, in November.

Ms Whiteread, an enfant terrible of the British art world most famous for her provocative life-size sculpture of a house which won the Torner prize, was chosen from 10 artists invited to submit a proposal in a closed competition.

Hans Holbein, an Austrian architect who headed the jury which selected the design, said: "It symbolises that Judaism has survived through thousands of years of persecution, especially through books and writing."

The Jewish community has welcomed the £600,000 sculpture, which many say is symbolic of a change in attitude in Austria. This is the city that was the capital of anti-semitism, and it has taken a long time to come to terms with it," said George Clare, a writer and an Austrian-

born Jew. "There is a shift and Austrians' attitudes have definitely changed. There is hope now, because people have changed. If sbe is a good artist and she does something sensible, I fully support this."

According to art experts in Britain, Ms Whiteread, who is not Jewish, is an ideal choice for the honour.

Simon Wilson, curator at the Tate Gallery in London said: "She is a deeply admired artist who uses these everyday objects, hut makes them very redolent of human life. She is an utterly hrilliant eboice for a Holocaust memorial in that a lot of

her work is about death." The monument will be the first in the city that is dedicated specifically to the Austrian Jews killed in the Holocaust.

The international competition to find an artist was set up by Simon Wiesenthal, 87, who has dedicated his life to exposing war crimes. He was joined on the jury by prominent Jews including Lord Weidenfeld, Robert Storr, curator of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Amnon Barzel of the Jewish Museum, Berlin.

Aids vaccine hope as HIV children 'tolerate' infection

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Almost three per cent of babies born HIV-positive will subsequently "clear" or "tolerate" the virus in later childhood and may be declared virus free, according to a study which will help vaccine development against

The study follows several reports from around the world of mothers, who were found to be

infected at birth, hut who then appeared to rid their bodies of

the virus in childhood. Nine children out of 264 in the on-going European Collaborative Study of mothers and children, tested positive at or around birth and then negative for HIV at a later date. There was no HIV in the blood of seven of the children and they remained healthy.

Two other children tested children born to HIV-positive antibody negative hut the virus could still be detected in their

tests. However, they too remained well and doctors believe their immune systems could have "contained" the virus, and developed a tolerance to it so they no longer produced anti-bodies.

Writing in tomorrow's issue of The Lancet, Dr Marie-Louise Newall and her team from the Institute of Child Health in London, say: "If we could understand how virus-positive children subsequently become

sight into the mechanism of virus clearance. These mechanisms may have implications for vaccine development . . . it is important to continue the clinical and virological monitoring of these children. Current paediatric comion is to inform parents of these children that their

child is not infected with HIV." The British Medical Journal also reports that British doctors have further strong evidence for HIV as a cause of Aids, refut-

entists that it is a harmless pas-

senger virus in the human body. They found that a group of HIV-infected haemophiliac men developed Aids-related illnesses and had extensive damage to their immune systems while HIV-negative haemophiliacs did not.

The findings reject the view of some scientists, lead by Dr Peter Duesberg, an emment American researcher, who argue that factors other than

hlood using more sophisticated uninfected, we might gain in- ing claims by a handful of sci- HIV, such as long-term illegal drug use or promiscuity, are responsible for Aids.

Dr Duesberg's explanation for the high incidence of Aids among haemophiliacs, which received worldwide attention after extensive publicity in the Sunday Times, is not that they received blood products contaminated with HIV, but that factor 8, the essential clotting agent needed by these patients, is itself a cause of the disease.

But a team from the Royal

thrush infections, cytomegalovirus, while the uninfected group failed to develop any of these. The HIV-positive group also had substantially lower white blood cell counts.

Free Hospital in north-west London which studied 17 HIV-

positive and 17-HIV negative

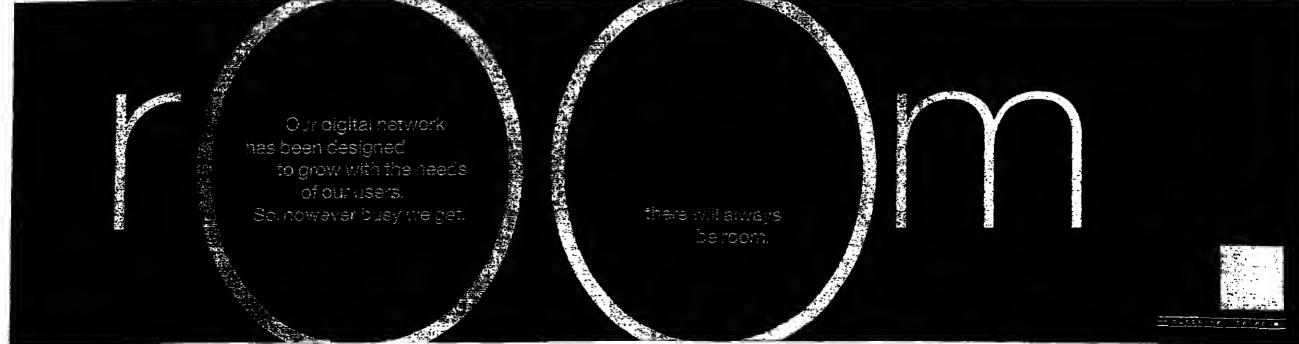
male haemophiliacs, who had all

received similar, large quanti-

ties of factor 8 over time, found

that the infected group suf-fered from Aids-related ill-

nesses, such as pneumonia.



Available from Dixons, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Tandy, Currys, Comet, John Lewis Partnership, Granada, Radio Rentals, Tempo, Norweh, Hutchison Telecom Retail, Escom and other leading high streat and independent stockista nationwide. Call 0800 80 10 80 for full details.

Primary school tests: Shephard accepts results 'not good enough' as Labour attacks 'absolute disaster' for future of Britain

Targets for the three Rs defeat most 11-year-olds

DODY HUDDY Education Editor

More than half of 11-year-olds failed to reach Government targets in the first national tests for the age group, results published vesterday show.

The figures throw doubt on school standards for 7- to 11year-olds. Gillian Shenhard, the Secretary of State for Education, said: "It is not good

Labour used the results to regain some of the ground lost on education over Harriet Harman's decisioo to send her soo to a selective school. Tony Blair. the Labour leader, said the results were "an absolute disaster for the future of this country" which showed the necessity for a change of education policy.

He clashed with the Prime Minister in the Commons, where he hlamed the results oo

jor accepted the results were disappointing but pointed out that Mr Blair had voted against the introduction of national tests for 7-, 11- and 14-year-olds.

"If it is the Conservative Government that has failed, perhaps you can explain why some of your friends remove their children from Labour education authorities and have them educated under Conservative ooes," he said.

Mrs Shephard blamed the overloaded curriculum and poioted out that it will be slimmed down to concentrate oo literacy and oumeracy from September. Standards would improve. she suggested, as schools got used to the tests.

Teachers said next year's results would be better because schools would speod hours coaching their pupils and revising. Today's 11-year-olds

results for the 600,000 11-yearolds showed that 52 per cent failed to reach the expected standard in English and 56 per cent failed to do so in maths. In science 70 per cent reached the required standard

National tests were takeo last spring and summer by two million seven, 11 and 14-yearolds. Results for seven-year-olds were better with more than three-quarters reaching or ex-ceeding expected standards in English, maths and science. Just over half 14-year-olds reached or exceeded expected standards in the three areas. Mrs Shephard said: "These

tests and the fact 90 per cent of our 7-, 11- and 14-year-olds took the tests for the first time are a very important part of our standards strategy in schools."

Professor Michael Barber,

dean of London University's In-

17 years of Tory rule. John Ma- are not used to formal tests. The stitute of Education, said: "We do have reason to be very worried about standards of literacy and numeracy. This isn't teacher-bashing. As a society we expect too little of children at the age of 11. International comparisons bear this out."

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said: Teachers will be very depressed by both Mr Blair and Mrs Shephard. Yoo will get big improvements next year because of a very narrow focus on teaching to the test. It will not raise education.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "The Government must accept that overcrowded primary classes, lack of curriculum are taking their toll



Testing times: The roof is leaking and staff are in short supply at Priory Middle School

'Crude, clumsy and a dire misuse of cash'

CLARE GARNER

Most pupils at Priory Middle School passed last summer's tests for 11-year-olds with flying colours. In their book, it was the politicians who failed.

One by one, they reiterated the concerns of Roger Pepworth, head teacher at the 530strong mixed comprehensive in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Everyone agreed that the tests were "crude", "clumsy", and "a mere snapshot" - inaccurate at

that - of childreo's ability. "I'm strapped for cash. I'm strapped for staff, and I've got buckets in the corridors because the roof is leaking. The money spent on SATs is a dire misuse of cash, I could use the money a lot better on teachers, resources, and buildings," said Mr

Pepworth yesterday. They are crude, they are in-accurate, they are limited in what they assess. They've got more to do with politicians than the children's needs. I think they are a distraction from the planned and progres-

Despite the school's policy of playing down the significance of the tests, all the children complained that they felt under playing the complained that they felt under the children complained the ch undue pressure to perform well. Helen Ashtoo, 11, said: "I found that when I revised I got more and more nervous because I knew the results go on to your upper school. They say they reflect your ability, but that's not true. You might have been having a bad day because you are right."

Politicians are not popular among staff and pupils at **Priory School**

uoder a lot of stress. They make you feel uptight. Indeed many pupils feel the tests are unfair and that it would make more sense for their teachers to set and mark them. Heleo Ashton added; "Teachers in our school might not have taught what teachers in other schools have taught, They should test us on what we have been taught."

Helen was just one of many pupils to complain that her marks did not reflect important qualities such as attitude, effort, values, character and social skills.Furthermore, both teachers and pupils mistrust the

The quality of marking for the English tests was just lamentable. The children could have marked the tests with more accuracy," said Mr Pepworth, who complained to Gillian Shephard that his pupils scores were not too low, but too high Spellings like "giogerlly", "saticfied", "centurey", and "ucording" were marked down as correct. When re-marked, only 18 of the 132 papers had no alteration to the final mark. It makes 12-year-old Mark Crane angry with the Governmeot. "They give us them to do and then they doo't mark them

Arts 'cannot survive a year of further cuts'

JOHN McKIE

Leading Arts Council executives yesterday warned of "major and painful" closures of artistic veoues if there are further cuts in government funding for the arts.

The warning came as the Arts Council of England announced its allocation of grants for 1996-97. Many theatres, galleries, orchestras and dance companies had feared the worst last November when the Government announced a cut of £5m in the Arts Council's annual budget of £191m.

However, yesterday its chairman, Lord Gowrie, said that a re-apportionment of the Arts Couocil's and Regional Arts Boards' overhead costs of £4.3m for dealing with applications for National Lottery funding, and a further £1m from Arts Council contingency funds, had been released to offset the cut in funding.
But he warned that this could

not be repeated and that closures were inevitable if the Government's threat to cut £3.2m from the 1997-98 budget

is followed through.

Mary Allen, the Arts Council's chief executive, said: "The arts can't survive a year of further cuts and there will be inevitable closures if there are further cuts. If cuts are on a scale as predicted by the Government those closures will be major and painful."

She added that the re-apportionment of funds this year

was a one-off gesture: "All the rabbits have been pulled out of the bat.

The Arts Council announced a standstill - or freeze - on funding to most of the 170 organi-sations and all 10 Regional Arts Boards it supports in Eng-

This standstill is the same as the devolved systems of Arts Council funding operating in Scotland and Wales. The English standstill - for most companies the fourth in succession represents a cut in real terms of 2 to 3 per cent because of inflation.

The Arts Council also handed out one-off grants of £100,000 to Dance House Network, a new organisation aiding dance development in London, and £150,000 to the troubled Donmar Warehouse theatre in Coveot Garden, central Loo-don, which was on the brink of financial ruin.

 $\omega_{0 \wedge 6}$ or

The Museum of Modern Art in Oxford also received a grant of £29,000, while the English Touring Opera was giveo £75,000 to avoid an expected cut of 50 per cent of its annual

productions.

Lord Gowrie also praised the National Lottery as "the best thing that has happened to the arts in our lifetimes". He: welcomed the announcement by Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of ... State for National Heritage; earlier this week that National Lottery money would be made available for funding new talent in sport and the arts.

Winter sale bargain: up to 20% off petrol, permanently.

				CARINA E	L# GLI - SPECI	FICATION.		
Power steering	Driver's airbag	Colour keyed bumpers	Central locking	Alarm/ Immobiliser	Seatbelt pretensioners	4 speaker radio cassette	I6V twin OHC engine	 Electric tilt/slide glass sunroof

Compared with other cars in its class, Toyota's lean-burn Carina E is up to 20% more economical. Think about it. For every five gallons you put in, that can be like getting an extra gallon free. From only £11,333,1 however, you'll find there's no economising on the specification. Just look at the features listed above. This amazing

® TOYOTA offer on the Carina E Is open for a strictly unlimited period. But if you're prepared to hurry, better still. Because it's also one of the fastest cars in its class. For your nearest dealer, and a test drive, call 0800 777 555.

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA





nished of cast



Ashdown shrugs off danger of Scargill

JAMES CUSICK

Paddy Ashdown yesterday branded Arthur Scargill and his new political party, which has its first outing in next Thursday's Hemsworth by-election, as a "dangerous irrelevance".

The Liberal Democrat leader was the first of the main party leaders to visit the West Yorkshire constituency. The ultra-

leaves the Liberal Democrats and the Tories to scrap over second place. However, the equa-

tion is complicated by the debut of Mr Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, whose candidate is Brenda Nixon, a miner's wife who established her credentials in the pit closure support groups.
Although Mr Ashdown insisted the SLP was an irrelevance, he nevertheless appeared

Labour may not enjoy the lev- the last three elections, it has els of support in Yorkshire that it has in the south of England. Mr Ashdown said Mr Blair's

"southern voice" had "no resonance with the fears and wishes of people here", and he de-scribed the area as having been neglected by the Tories and taken for granted by Labour".

Before Mrs Nixon entered safe Labour seat traditionally partially to accept Mr Scargill's the contest, Labour expected no port of the hard left by insisting

view that Tony Blair's New dent in its 22,000 majority. At that members cannot belong to scored around 65 per cent. Publicly, Labour is saying that Mrs Nixon will lose her deposit.

but a party source admitted that

if the SLP cannot do well in

Hemsworth - a former mining

area south-east of Wakefield -

it "cannot succeed anywhere". Although the SLP's constitution effectively shuns the sup-

other political groups, both Socialist Workers Party and Militant activists have been helping it campaign. Their participation is confined to the delivery of leaflets, however, and they have been forbidden to discuss issues with voters or distribute their own literature.

Mrs Nixon promised: "The result next Thursday will not be a disappointment.

Divorced wives set for share of pension funds

outflow of capital.

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

Divorced women will be entitled to their own shares of their ex-husbands' pensions under a radical change to the law sig-nalled last night by Lord Mack-ay, the Lord Chancellor. Lord Mackay pledged he

would "consider sympathetically" amendments to the Family Law Bill from Labour's Baroness Hollis to introduce so-called "pension splitting". Following strong support

from all sides during yesterday's Lords' committee stage discussion, most peers believe amendments to implement the reform will be brought back at the re-

port stage.

The change would enable couples to split the capital represented by the pension at the time they divorce instead of their financial affairs being entangled for years", Baroness

The signal from Lord Mackay represents a climbdown from earlier government resistance. Under a limited change forced on the Government by opposition peers and rebel Tories during last year's Pen-

allowance. But parliamentary answers from the Treasury to Lady Hollis and the Labour MP Harry Cohen showed that in 2020 the sions Bill, a divorcée receiving tax loss would be £80m, and that a share of her former huswould be offset by £70m worth band's pension gets only an order for "deferred maintenance" of savings on income support payable while he is alive. That and £10m in court costs.

Lady Hollis told peers that left ex-wives at risk of receiving the current system was a "gamnothing from a pension fund if hie" that still left former wives their former husbands died before retirement age. Where ex-husbands died later, former "traded in for a younger model" dependent on their husbands. "If he retires early she wives could be forced on to has less income. If he retires latincome support when in their er she has to wait longer for it. seventies If he dies carly she may get nothing and when eventually Under the expected amendments, divorced spouses will be

after retirement he does die, she able to start their own new penwill get nothing," she said. Baroness O'Cathain, a Tory sions or add to their entitlements with additional voluntary contributions, ending the uner, backed Lady Hollis and said that splitting the pension at the time of divorce would recertainty of waiting until their former spouses chose to retire. duce the problem of keeping In the case of unfunded Civtrack of the pension beneficiail Service pensions, the divorced spouses would have to build on ry and his or her spouse for any-

thing up to 35 years. their entitlement within the The former Law Lord Lord scheme to prevent a dramatic Simon of Glaisdale, despite be-Despite support from the National Association of Pension ing an ardent opponent of both divorce and the current Bill, none the less said division of the Funds, the Institute of Actuarpension at divorce would be a ies, the Law Society and the Mothers' Union, the Govern-

simple act of justice". Lord Mackay warned that the change could he viewed as an ment had opposed the change on financial grounds, insisting incentive to divorce because of that there would be a £300m tax separate taxation. But he told loss because each former peers: "I certainly wish to conspouse would claim a personal sider sympathetically this series of amendments with the proviso that I consider there are a great number of very difficult questions associated with this which we have to consider and try to resolve.

Lady Hollis's amendments were withdrawn without a vote.

병 HALF PRICE COMPACT CAMERAS

Blair steers a risky course

ony Blair yesterday pro-vided the Prime Minister with all the invitation necessary to twist the knife in Labour's wounds over education policy.

Having on Wednesday rescued his shadow Health Secretary, Harriet Harman, from the turmoil over sending her 11year-old son to a grammar school, education might have seemed a subject for the Lahour leader to steer clear of at Question Time.

But, as was said of Lord Cardigan at Balaclava, showing the qualities "more of a hero than a general", he galloped in on the latest school test results.

The results for 11-year olds in English and maths were "appalling" he said, going on to suggest a reduction in class sizes for five- to seven-year-olds, a register of national head teachers, the use of associate teachers in classrooms, and the reinstatement of the reading recovery

Mr Major accepted that

Stay put

Negative equity?

...or get a

move on.

0500 111 130

FREECALL US TODAY QUOTING NE0304

TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN HELP YOU.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE

OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

Assignment of a life policy may be required.

Written quotations available on request. Applicants must

be aged 25 or over. All loans are subject to status

EXPRESS

those at 11 were "disappointing", but said those at other age groups were better. Then came the political punches as he re-minded the House that Labour party had opposed the introduction of tests and Mr Blair personally voted against them.

Those test results are very useful. They tell us where the shortcomings are so we may



deal with them and we will look at a range of measures to deal with them ... I am glad Mr Blair acknowledges now - better late than never - that we were right to introduce them."

To a barrage of jeers, the Labour leader said it was a problem merely with 11-year-olds, he said. Tests for 14-yearolds showed "an appalling level of failure" in key subjects - and they were children born and ed-

ucated under a Tory government. Mr Major said it was not the Conservatives that were at fault Perhaps Mr Blair can explain why some of his friends remove their children from Labour education authorities and have them educated under Conservative education authorities?" Mr Blair looked as if he had

not intended to ask a third question, but with Tory MPs having for more, he rose again.
"Now we see the reason they want to focus attention on one 11-year child is to conceal the damage they have done to millions of our children."

more defensive tone was Adopted by the Prime Minister and Sir Patrick Maybew, the Northern Ireland of the Unionist plan for an elect-

"complacent reply". Nor was the ed forum as the way out of the impasse in the peace process. With Nationalist fury still ringing in the chamber, Mr Major said he would like to see

the start of all-party talks "as speedily as possible". The impediment was, as always, the unwillingness of "Sinn Fein-IRA" to disarm. Earlier, SDLP member Seamus Mallon accused the Government of "unilaterally and shamelessly" reneging on an agreement with the Irish gov-

ernment to pursue all-party talks. Ministers had "sacrificed potential consensus" for Unionist support in the Commons. Sir Patrick shook his head. All-party talks could still begin by the target date of the end of February provided a start was made to decommissioning, he

But if that was not going to happen - as the Mitchell Commission admitted - it was the duty of governments to look to Secretary, over their adoption see whether there's another way of creating confidence.



SAVE # £150 ON CAMERAS



CANON BL2
35mm COMPACT CAMERA
• Fixed focus.
• Auto-flock with 'red-eye' MIRANDA PANORAMA MIRANDA BFI 350 Big viewfineWas £14.99.

YASHICA MINETEC AF 35mm COMPACT CAMERA Multi-function flack LCD display panel.

and return the whole of this announcement to Carnell. Ginger & Arthritis: Report on a recent study by two top Danish scientists which reveals that a regular intake of ginger can bring significant relief to people suffering from a wide range of rheumatoid and arthritic diseases, not only easing the pain caused by these ailments, but also considerably reducing the swelling that usually accompanies them.

NEW HEALTH REPORTS

Here are five new Health Reports from publishers Carnell plchuy any ONE Report for £5 and choose another one FREE. Or

you can buy ALL FIVE Reports for just £10. All you have to do is simply tick the Reports you want, complete the form below

Buy one, get one FREE

☐ Garlie & Vinegar: Thanks to the peculiar compositions they contain, garlic and vinegar act as natural activators of the immune defence system, thus helping prevent, and even relieve, certain everyday health problems - "Nature's Miracle Healing Combo" is how one popular American journal describes them.

☐ Control of Ageing: Reports on an experiment by American scientists, which they reckon can extend life significantly and improve it's quality - the team was so impressed by the results, they have adapted the same techniques to their own life. ☐ How to Rnb Your Stomach Away: A Chinese doctor's disarmingly simple method to flatten your stomach. There are two

principal components to this effortless, two minute exercise -

first lie flat on your back, then rub the palm of your hand on your stomach - but only in exactly the way he shows you. ☐ 16 Ways to Get Money from the Government: Does the government owe you money? Chances are it does, because there is such a wide variety of benefus and grants available that it's quite likely you may be entitled to one or more of them – especially as an estimated £6 billion goes unclaimed every year.

To order, rick the Reports you want above, complete the details below and return the whole of this announcement to: Carnell plc, Airesford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP or telephone our 24-hour order line on 91206 825600 (quoting ref. HB86).

Please send me the Reports ticked above: ☐ I am ordering ONE Report for £5 plus a second one free. ☐ 1 am ordering ALL FIVE Reports for £10

☐ 1 enclose my cheque/PO for £_____ payable to Carnell plc ☐ Please charge my Visa/Access/Mastercard: exp date:

ADDRESS DATE OF BIRTH ! !

You can return these Reports at any time within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.

LOOM CO	MARCIS
1000	VIVITAR 480PZ
	S5mm ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA
	● 38-70mm zoom lens.



YASHICA





CANON



SALE PRICE



OVER 350 HIGH STREET BRANCHES NATIONWIDE. TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Arts cannot further cui

Alarm over genetic science 'complacency'

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

The Government's green advisers voiced alarm yesterday about the release of genetically engineered life forms into the environment.

The five-strong panel, set up five years ago as a follow-up to the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, called for much wider and more careful Government

and micro-organisms and for better scrutiny of the results.

"We are playing not just with fire hut with dynamite," said Sir Crispin Tickell, the former am-bassador to the United Nations, who chairs the panel. Its remit is to give the Prime Minister advice on achieving sustainable development. Britain, in partnership with

emergency procedures before any major commercial releases of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) take place, in case there are unforeseen repercus-

In its second annual report, the panel makes the comparison with CFCs, pesticides and great advances in agriculture, thalidomide, new products which were thought to be safe

thinking on the rules allowing other European Union coun- and of great benefit, but found viruses can be stitched into the vironment, in Britain and oth-such releases of plants, animals tries, must consider developing to cause severe damage after genetic material of other micro- er countries. Giving a crop their release, "People simply haven't understood the effects of their actions," said Sir Crispin, the warden of an Oxford post-graduate college.

Genetic engineering is seen as one of the next century's biggest industries, bringing medicine and other fields. Genes from fungi, bacteria and

organisms or higher plants and animals, giving them abilities foreign to their nature. The genes being transferred can even be designed and created in laboratories.

The technology is still mainly at the experimental stage but there have already been hundreds of releases of altered plants and animals into the en-

er countries. Giving a crop plant improved resistance to a particular weed killer is one common example. This weed killer can then be used allowing the farmer a higher yield. But there are fears that the "foreign" genes could spread into other micro-organisms in the wild. Unlike higher animals,

bacteria and viruses have the

quite different species and they arrangements were "messy and can multiply their numbers very badly co-ordinated". rapidly. There is the possibility resistance to pesticides might be transferred to destructive

pests and disease species. Current controls on releases depend on expert committees covering medicine, agriculture and food giving advice to ministers on whether particular experiments should go ahead, case by case. Sir Crispin said the

Central to its proposals, the

panel asks the Government to bring together industrialists. academics, doctors, representatives of consumer and enviing both medicine and industrial/agricultural applica-

Vouchers for nursery 'may be lottery'

FRAN ABRAMS **Education Correspondent**

The Government's nursery voucher scheme could turn out to be a lottery in which children in some areas will have little chance of a place, a new report suggests. It also shows that parents will face uncertainty over whether their children are receiving a quality education or

Research by the Audit Commission shows that in some areas there are only enough state nursery education places for a quarter of four-year-olds, while in others there are enough for 9 out of 10.

The report, published today, also reveals that middle-class children who receive nursery education can start school with a year's advantage over classmates from deprived areas who do not Nursery schools give children six months' head start, while playgroups give them

According to the authors of Counting to Five, provision of nursery education is very uneven across the country. The worst provided-for area is Hereford and Worcester, where only 26 per cent of four-year-olds are in state nursery schools or reception classes, and the best is Knowsley, Merseyside, which

provides for 95 per cent. private provision may be dence and scrap the chaotic, stronger in areas where the confused voucher scheme," be state sector is weak, the report says nursery education across the country is "uneven". Even where places are available they may not be taken up because of transport problems or because nursery schools finish hours

before most parents finish work.
The quality of different under-fives services in playgroups

large to children as nursery classes. and nursery schools varied from excellent to very poor. The only reliable way of ensuring a good education was 10 check whether a qualified teacher clusive evidence that one type was in charge of the group, the analysis found.

Research carried out by New-castle University for the commission revealed that going to nursery school could bring a disadvantaged child up to the average ability level or could put an advantaged child up to a year ahead.

Girls from middle-class families who had been to nursery school had the biggest advantage, while boys from deprived areas whose first language was not English suffered the biggest disadvantage.

Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said councils must work with the private sector to counteract prob-

"Local authorities should take a positive approach to this important area. They should try to develop playgroups, private provision and their own provision." he said.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, said the report proved the inadequacy of the Government's voucher scheme, which will be piloted in four areas from April this year and which will be extended nationally by April 1997.

"Vouchers will not give parents what they really want - high quality early-years education. Vouchers will not improve access and will not improve quality. Gillian Shephard should rovides for 95 per cent.

Although they suggest that mission's overwhelming evi-

> Margaret Lochrie, administrator of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, which runs the playgroups, welcomed the re-port but said it contradicted earlier research which showed

"This clearly refutes the idea that the only route to high quality is through nursery classes in schools. There is no conof provision out-performs an-other," she said.

Takeover bid: Best-selling brands are the prize as US giants fight for control of £45bn market







Barbie eyes up Action Man in Toytown battle

NIGEL COPE

Toytown was pitched into a billion-dollar takeover conflict yesterday when Barbie, the undisputed queen of the doll market, was sent into battle with Action Man.

The lines were drawn when Barbie's parent company, Mattel-Fisher Price, launched a bostile \$5.2bn (£3.45bn) offer for the rival toy group, Hasbro, whose portfolio includes Action Man as well as Barbie's arch rival Sindy, GI Joe and the relaunched Cabbage Patch dolls. Hasbro has rejected the of-fer, but if successful it would

incarnation was a Baywatch

create the world's largest toy company, with sales of more than \$7bn and a sizeable sbare of the world's £45bn toy market. It could get nasty. Barbie, the pneumatic blonde whose latest

beauty, has been top of the toy tree since her debut in 1959. But Sindy, which sells well in the UK but is not available in the US,

is certain to put up a fight.

Jon Salisbury, editor of the trade magazine World Toy News, said: "It's all about brands. Mattel is strong in pre-school toys with its Fisher Price range and with the Barbie doll, but it has not had a big boy's toy since Masters of the Universe in 1985. That is Hasbro's strength with Action Man, GI Joe and Tonka toys. This bid was inevitable at some time."

Mattel says it wants to merge with Hasbro because the two have complementary products which when put together would create a stronger group capable of more consistent growth and greater economies of scale. It says it would he able to generate £100m of cost savings in the first year alone.

tons, makers of Monopoly. Toy companies have long struggled to maintain consistent Mattel has acquired Fisher growth in a market dominated Price and JW Spear, makers of crazes that are often linked to hit films and television shows such as Jurassic Park, Thunderbirds and Batman. A bit gener-

ates millions. Expensive flops can cripole smaller companies. The toy industry has seen a spate of takeovers in the last few years, Hasbro bought Wadding-

Scrabble since 1993. Analysts in New York said Hasbro's assets had been undermanaged. "We helieve that

Hasbro

Key brands: Sindy Action Mari, Key: brands: Berble: Scrabble.

Tonica, Waddington (Monopoly). Cabbage: Patch dolls, Hot Wheels.

Gl. Joe, My Little Pody, Playskoot: Sales (1995): \$3,55501 (12,461).

some of Hasbro's evergreen brands could flourish much more under Mattel's skilled nurthring and marketing savvy,

Sales (1995): \$2.86to (£1.9to). Profits: \$370ra (£244m). Profits: \$175m (£115m). Founded: 1945.

Founded: 1923. Head officer Los Angeles: Head officer Rhode Island. Culture: West Cross style, with an Culture: Still party owned by aggressive go getting manage tounding Hasselfeld family Paternal ment. It is focused or profits above and caring. Helps charities.

monopoly grounds as the two are already the largest compa-nies in the sector. Mattel and Hasbro combined would have a 30 per cent sbare of the \$13bn-a-year US toy market and 25 per cent of the UK's £1.6bn market. Mattel bopes to avoid such problems, possibly by

But the deal could run into

problems, such as difficulties on

selling parts of Hasbro. Another potential stumbling block is the contrasting culture of the two companies. Mattel was founded in 1945, is based in Los Angeles and regarded as an aggressive company which focuses strongly on profits. Has-bro was founded in the 1920s, is based in Rhode Island, and the founding Hassenfeld company still controls a large stake. It is known as a paternal em-

ployer that donates large sums Hasbro performed strongly in the 1980s but has under-performed recently. It had a hit with Jurassic Park in 1993 but failed to follow it up last year. In recent meetings the company's chairman, Alan Hassenfeld, has admitted that the company needed to be more aggressive. Meanwhile Mattel's fortunes

have blossomed, fuelled by Barbie sales, which now account for \$1bn of the group's £3.65bn yearly sale, and the takeover of Fisher Price in 1993.

Analysts say that a white knight could yet rescue Hasbro. Disney bas been mentioned as one possibility. Others say that even if the bid fails, Mattel may have weakened Hasbro suffi-

ciently to force a break-up. But one thing is certain. With the UK toy fair due to start in London tomorrow and the world equivalent scheduled for the US next mouth, this bid will be the talk of Toytown.

O Call the TSB Mortgage

QUOTATION L

9 Go hunt that house

Find out what you can borrow, BEFORE hunting. The call is free, the quote is free, so why not ring TSB PhoneBank for more information quoting number MP1.

FALL 0500 758 000

Variable Rate Mortgage

by the Bank as socurely. Applicants must be aged 18 or over, All loans subject to status. Not available in the Channel Islands. W able on request by calling 0600 758 000. TSB Bank pic and TSB Bank Scotland pic tragulated by MMRO and SFA) are represe Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority only for TSB life insurance, paracions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice or recme rollers only to the investments of that Group. TSB Bank plc. Victoria House, Victoria Squere, Birmingham B1 18Z. Regist Wales, Number: 1089266 TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH, Registered in Scotland, Number: 95297

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Fraud solicitor jailed

A solicitor whose international £13m swindle defrauded the cooker company Belling and some of Europe's largest firms was jailed for nine years yes-

Charles Deacon, 53, a former under-sheriff of Stafford, and a former mus and bolts salesman, James Fuller, 56, who received tales of MI5 and the CIA to extract cash through a bogus

money-lending scheme.
Passing sentence at Middlesex Crown Court, central Lon-don, Judge Fabian Evans QC

money involved in this case have been quite staggering and have been matched only by the enormity of the lies which you

both told." Apart from Belling, which plundered its pension fund of more than £2.3m to qualify for a "loan" and in the process left many of its former employees facing the prospect of reduced pensions, other companies tar-geted included Russia's largest co-operative and Finland's biggest food processing com-

DAILY POEM

Between mountain and sea

By Norman MacCaig

Honey and salt - land smell and sea smell,

as in the long ago, as in forever. The days pick me up and carry me off, half-child, half-prisoner,

on their journey that I'll share

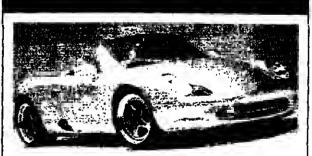
They wound and they bless me with strange gifts:

the salt of absence the honey of memory

In 1954, a friend of Ian Parsons, then editor at the Hogarth Press, wrote recommending a young poet called Norman Mac-Caig, writes Jonathan Burnham. Parsons contacted MacCaig, who wrote back: "I know publishers are not philanthropists, and that poetry, generally speaking, is lethal stuff to handle. So it seems a good thing to assure you that at least in Scotland there are many people looking forward to the publica-tion of these poems". "These poems" were published as Riding Lights and the Hogarth Press, and then Chatto & Windus, published all of MacCaig's subsequent work, until his marvellous late collection Voice Over (from which this poem is taken) published in 1988 when he was 78, which finally brought him recognition as one of the most important Scottish poets of the century.

The poems of Norman MacCaig, who died earlier this week, are published as Collected Poems (Chatto, £9.99). Jonathan Burnham is poetry editor at Charto.

TOMORROW



WIN A PORSCHE BOXSTER

Collect your starter token in The Independent tomorrow

MATERIAL PROPERTY OF THE PROP

Buy The independent on Saturday and get the **Independent on Sunday** for only and read:

THE DEFINITIVE **A-Z OF DRUGS**

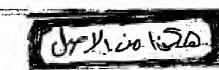
What they do. What they cost. What's fashionable. Who's using what ... and the risks











Macency,

The Met under fire: Scotland Yard's image dented by triple blows of corruption, unlawful arrest and jury-nobbling cases



Photograph; Edward Sykes

MPs lambast police over £5m thefts by 'lord'

CHRIS BLACKHURST Vestminster Correspondent

Scotland Yard should have realised its accountant, Anthony Williams - convicted of stealing more than £5m from police funds – was leading a life of tux-ury and had bought up a large slice of a village m the Scottish Highlands, an influential group of MPs concluded yesterday.

In a report that even by the andards of the often critical Commons Public Accounts Committee was especially hardhitting, the Metropolitan Police was lambasted for not rumbling Mr Williams sooner.

He was convicted in May last year and sentenced to seven and a half years' imprisonment. A backroom civil servant at Scot-land Yard he enjoyed a lifestyle way beyond his means. In London, he lived in suburban New Malden: in Tomintoul in Scotland, he was known as "Lord

tacular spending spree, acquiring the village's main hotel and

As a trusted official, Mr Williams was put in charge of the financing of a sensitive, one-off, undercover police operation. To combat serious crime and terrorism, the *Independent* has revealed, the police bought a spotter plane equipped with hi-tech surveil-lance equipment. To hide its ownership - and prevent sus-pects realising the aircraft overhead belonged to the police – they booked it through a private company, run by Williams. He was in sole charge of han-dling the aircraft's running

costs. When the pilot wanted cash for fuel, he asked Williams, who paid it from the company account. The company was then reimbursed by the Met, with no questions asked.

Such a unique scheme, with



funding controlled by one in-dividual, was appalling, said the committee. They found it unacceptable" that the Met could not prevent the fraud, they were "critical of the service for allowing an arrangement which could not properly safeguard public money" and "de-plored" the police's failure to

departure from standard prac-

Given the secrecy attached to the operation, MPs said they ex-pected Mr Williams to have been positively vetted before-hand. If he had been, checks would have discovered that doubts had been raised about him in the past, when he ran the police's civilian staff welfare fund. An auditor had queried his management of the fund in 1988 but it was only in 1994, after he had finally been arrested for fraud, that an invesrigation revealed cash had gone

To the embarrassment of the police he was caught only after a bank questioned the large amounts of cash going through his account. Since Mr Williams paid well over the market price for his properties, only £Im of the £5m he stole is ever likely to be recovered.

Assault case settlement costs £90,000

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

A teacher, a traince solicitor and a prize-winning photographer were yesterday paid more than £90,000 in damages and costs for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution by

the Metropolitan Police. Officers were said to have attacked Paul Demuth, 41. Claire Roherts, 31, and Mal-colm Glover, 40, as they were making their way to a London restaurant to celehrate Mr Glover's Sunday Times award for the best documentary photographer of the year.

A court was told the incident. in June 1991, led to Mr Demuth, a teacher, lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the steps of a police station in the West End and ended with the police fabricating evidence, charging him for assault and his two friends for obstruction. It took four months and several court appearance before their inno-

cence was finally established. The Metropolitan Police yesterday denied liability, but in an agreed statement read to the court agreed to pay a total of £44,000 and a similar amount in costs. The statement recorded that the officers involved stood by their allegations against the three, as they had from the

outset. The payout is the latest in a string of court awards and settlements by the Met which in 1994 totalled nearly £1.4m plus costs. Out of 304 civil actions,

Yesterday Mr Glover said the award was a "hollow victory".
"This has left all of us incredibly paranoid about the police. I am still at a loss to understand it."

Central London county court was told that the three, all from Hearn Hill, south London, were in Soho when Constables Martin Heap and Colin Baker walked by and one shouted "stop". Mr Demuth dropped a tiny amount of cannabis onto the ground and, on seeing this, PC Heap ran up, pushed him against a wall and cuffed his hands behind his hack. He threw Mr Demuth on to the pavement, where he landed on his face. "PC Heap then placed his knee or foot on Paul's head, forcing it into the pavement."

When his friends tried to intervene, they too were seized, the court was told. All three were thrown into a police van. "Get that tart out of there," another officer. PC Bruce Wilson said. In the van PC Heap held Mr Demuth in a headlock, "laughing and joking about

what he was doing.

Mr Demuth alleged that at the station he was pushed or swung out of the van so that he fell headfirst, landing on the ground and losing conscious-

He was taken to hospital where his wound was stitched. As well as his physical injuries, Mr Demuth suffered trauma and psychological damage", the court was told. He was awarded £20,000 and his friends £12,000 each.

the police won only 24. Former officer jailed for bid to nobble jury

A former police sergeant who left the force after an exemplary 24-year career was jailed for seven years vesterday after the first "jury-nohbling" case involving a former or serving police officer to come before a British court.

John Young, 45, who was shot twice and awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal while a serving officer, demanded £30,000 to help influence the outcome of an Old Bailey trial last year. Southwark Crown Court

heard that, helped by an as-yet-unidentified serving officer, who was supposed to be part of a team providing 24-hour protection for the jurors, he obtained highly confidential addresses of some of those trying the armed robbery case. Passing sentence, Judge Ger-

ald Butler QC told Young, who turned private detective after teaving the police force two years ago, that what he had done "strikes at the very roots of our system of criminal jus-tice". He went on: "For that reason a deterrent sentence is

Contract of the second

Young, who was convicted earlier of "doing acts intending and intended to pervert the course of justice" between 13 March and 15 April, showed no reaction apart from turning to relatives in the public gallery and saying "All right".

Opening the week-long trial, Joanna Korner QC, for the prosecution, said Young had



Young: £30,000 demand

"spotted a potential to make a great deal of money". She explained that the Old Bailey case involved kidnapping, robhery and firearms. Each juror was being protected round the clock by two policemen.

"Regrettably the arrangements had the very opposite effect, because it enabled a corrupt police officer to ohtain names and addresses of jurors and pass them onto someone who might have an interest in influencing the jury," she said.

The jury heard that Young, of Poplar Close, New Barn, Kent. approached the sister of one of those on trial as she left the Old Bailey public gallery and offered to supply her valuable information which would help her brother, in return for cash.

An undercover police surveillance operation resulted in Young's arrest.

Notice to Customers

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

National Savings Certificates of the 42nd Issue and 8th Index-linked Issue were withdrawn from sale on 25 January 1996.

The 43rd Issue will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed and tax-free return of 5.35% pa compound when held for five years.

The 9th Index-linked Issue will go ou sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed and tax-free return of 2.5% pa compound in addition to index-linking when held for five years.

CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS

Issue G Children's Bonus Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 25 January 1996. Issue H will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed and tax-free return of 6.75% pa compound when held for the first five years.

CAPITAL BONDS

Series I Capital Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 25 January 1996. Series J will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a gross return of 6.65% pa compound, guaranteed when held for five years.

PENSIONERS GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Series 2 Pensioners Bonds were withdrawn from general sale on 25 January 1996 (but see the next paragraph). Series 3 will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed rate of 7.0% pa gross for the first five years

Series 2 Bonds will remain on sale for holders of National Savings Income Bonds who wish to use the proceeds of their Income Bonds to reinvest into Pensioners Bonds provided that:

(a) the application to repay the Income Bonds was received at National Savings, Blackpool between 29 November 1995 and 25 January 1996 inclusive; and, (b) the option to reinvest into Pensioners Bonds is exercised within I month of the repayment date of the Income Bonds.

FIRST OPTION BONDS

On and from 26 January 1996, the first year fixed rate on FIRST Option Bonds will be 6.25% gross (5.0% net assuming tax at 20%). Bonds of £20,000 or more held to the first anniversary will earn a bonus of 0.25% gross (0.2% net).

INCOME BONDS

On and from 9 March 1996 the variable ("Treasury") rate of interest payable on Income Bonds will be 6.25% pa gross. The bonus on holdings of £25,000 or more remains at 0.25% pa gross. The gross rates from 9 March will therefore be as follows:

> Holding Rate of interest under £25,000 6.25% pa £25,000 and over 6.5% pa

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

On and from 9 February 1996 the variable gross rates of interest on deposits in an Investment Account will be as

> Balance in account Rate of interest under £500 5.0% pa £500 to £24,999 5.5% pa 5.75% pa £25,000 and over

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

On and from I March 1996 the variable rates of interest on deposits in an Ordinary Account will be as follows:

> Standard rate 1.75% pa Higher rate 2.75% pa

PREMIUM BONDS

On and from 1 May 1996 the variable interest rate used to calculate the prize fund will be 4.75% pa. At the same time, a new scale of prizes will be introduced. This will fix the number of prizes at 350,000 a month. The prize values will continue to range from £50 to the £1 million monthly jackpot, but there will be a new method of calculating the number of prizes of each value. The number of larger prizes, after the £1 million jackpot, will no longer be fixed at 44 a month but will grow as the prize fund grows. The new method will result in about double the current number of prizes in the range £5,000 to £100,000. There will also be more prizes of £500 and £1,000. Full details of how the prize fund will be allocated were published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes dated 26 January 1996. They will also be included in a new booklet expected to be available at post offices from II March.

DEPOSIT BONDS (no longer on sale). On and from 9 March 1996 the variable rate of interest will be 6.25% pa gross.

Sales booklets (including application forms) are available from post offices. Alternatively you can get copies by telephoning 0500 500 000.



Issued by the Department for National Savings on behalf of the Treasury

Doubts grow over Dole after Clinton triumph

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Senator Bob Dole, uneasy front-runner for the Republican nomination, yesterday travelled to the key Presidential caucus state of Iowa to shore up a candidacy starting to be undermined by doubts about his age. and his inability to project an appealing vision to voters.

Crystallising the concerns was the reply that the 72-yearold Senate majority leader gave to President Clinton's State of the Union address. Mr Dole's



flat, lacklustre performance delighted Democrats. It was universally panned by the media and greeted even by some of his staunchest supporters with the most damning of faint praise.

Mr Dole's aides insist that the

limp, impersonal setting of his Senate office, from which he delivered the 12-minute response,

would have handicapped any Republican who had to speak after the President. Mr Clinton exploited his gift for television to the full amid the pomp and splendour of a House of Representatives chamber bursting at the seams with dignitaries.

And the conservative, sometimes harsh language for which Mr Dole has been criticised was, say his supporters, aimed not at the country at large, but at the more partisan and activist Republicans who tend to vote in primaries and who are now being courted by his rivals.

pounding yesterday came from that quarter. According to Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee governor who is still struggling to make an impact in the campaign, Mr Dole's uninspiring performance proved that the Republicans needed "a visionary, not a legislative architect" to heat the

Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator and candidate, turned to baseball for a metaphor: "Our starting pitcher got shelled; it's time to bring

Democratic incumbent.

Predictably, the fiercest some new kids from the minors." Phil Gramm, the Texas senator vying with Mr Buchanan for the conservative vote, declared flatly that "Bob Dole cannot and will not beat Bill Clinton"

> In the heat of the campaign, such complaints are worth far less than face value. But the evidence from the polls, and from Mr Dole's own tepid reception on the campaign trail, is that a truism of Republican primary politics - the early favourite always wins - may come under serious threat in 1996.

February, and in New Hampshire, where the first full-scale primary takes place eight days later, the magazine publisher Steve Forbes has halved Mr Dole's once majestic lead. In Arizona, voting on 27 February, Mr Forbes has a solid lead, according to one poll, and in Delaware, another early primary state, the two are running neck and neck. Thereafter the campaign moves south, to states where Mr Gramm and Mr Alexander should do better. Out in the field, Mr Dole, 36

In Iowa, which votes on 12 years in Congress and the ultimate Washington insider, has by far the best organisation. Five hundred people turned out at one New Hampshire rally, at which he was accompanied by a platoon of the senators and governors who have endorsed him. But his speech set nobody alight, and four-fifths of the crowd turned out to have been bused in from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Disenchantment with Mr Dole, meanwhile, is starting to rekindle the impossible dream of a candidacy by General Col-

tary chief. In November General Powell firmly closed the door to a 1996 candidacy. But some Republicans cling to the hope that a bloody and inconclusive battle among the current field might leave him open to entreaty. On Wednesday night, he was the star attraction at a Republican "Road to the White House" dinner which raised a record \$16m (£10.4m) for party coffers. Guests filed past General Powell's table as if he were royalty.

News Analysis, page 13

Facing the firing squad: Execution of murderer pits Mormon tradition of 'blood atonement' against state's modernised image

Utah takes a bloody step into the past

DAVID USBORNE Draper, Utah

By the time they wake this morning, the people of Utah should find that John Albert Taylor is no longer among them: killed by four bullets in the heart shortly after midnight. Only Taylor had the power to halt his dispatch by lodging an eleventh-hour appeal to the courts. As his last hours ticked by last night he showed no sign of exercising it.

The firing-squad execution of Taylor, convicted of the rape and murder of 11-year-old Charla King in 1989, has cast an unwelcome spotlight on a state that is striving to find a new image of modernity and touristfriendly hospitality while at the same time remaining steeped in the sometimes archaic traditions of the Mormon church, to which most of the population belongs. It has also provoked anguished international and religious protest,

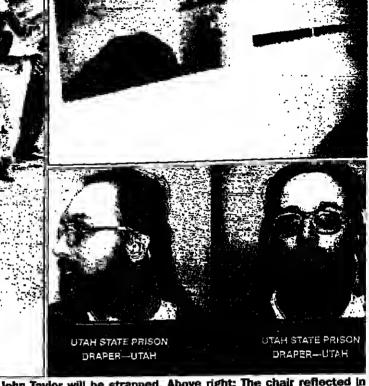
Though the pace of execu-tions is surging across the US. Taylor will he the first convict to die by firing squad since Gary Gilmore was shot, also in Utah, in 1977 for the murder of a motel clerk. The state is unique in offering its condemned prison- wishes - a few drags on a ciga-

firing squad and by lethal injection. Convicts can be shot in Idaho, but only at the discretion of the authorities.

Nowhere were the cross-currents of old and new - 19th-century grotesque and 20th-century political correctness - more evident than in the execution chamber itself, hidden within a warehouse at the Utah State Prison that is usually a sewing workshop. To be sure, Taylor's death was to be violent, but his blood, officials boasted, would not be allowed "to splatter".

Hence the chair into which he would he strapped for the shooting, huilt by prison staff. Of straight-backed design in shiny black metal, it is fitted with leg and wrist restraints made of Velcro. The seat of the chair is perforated like a kitchen colander, so the victim's blood can drain quickly into a large met-al pan below, sloping slightly to the back. To screen the flow of blood, a rectangle of deep-pile hlue carpet had been wrapped around the inside of the chair's

As he walked from his regular cell to the warehouse in the early hours of yesterday, Taylor was granted one of his final



Warehouse of death; Journalists view the chair in the warehouse at Utah State Prison in Draper in which John Taylor will be strapped. Above right: The chair reflected in the window of the room from where the shots will be fired. Bottom right: The official prison photograph of Taylor, convicted of murdering an 11-year-old girl Photographs: AP

laws forbid lighting up inside. Last night his second request was honoured: a supper of pizza loaded with mushrooms, ham and Canadian hacon.

The plan for his final minutes was meticulously laid. Shortly before midnight, Taylor was to be marched into the chamber itself, strapped into the chair and a hood placed over his head. A ers a choice between death by rette. To have it later was not medical officer was to locate his tioners. A platoon from a South

THE FINE ART OF FURNISHING

possible, since Utah's smoking heart with a stethoscope and fix a square piece of red cloth over it as a target. Then Taylor was to be given two minutes to make a final statement. The order to fire was to be given by the prison warden.

Of all the chapters in the Taylor saga, few have heen as shocking as the avalanche of offers from around the US to act as one of the five execu-

YEARS

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

PLUS-

Carolina army camp stepped forward, as did a self-described former CIA intelligence agent. Instead the men have been provided by local police forces. They were to stand behind a wall concealed from Taylor and push their rifle barrels through letter-box slits. According to tradition, one will have a hlank in his weapon, so each can believe he did not kill the victim.

his lawyer a month ago and has spurned all civil liberties groups, told a journalist he preferred bullets to lethal mjection, because he did not want to "flop around like a dying fish". But historical research of the 39 firing-squad executions held in Utah since 1852 shows that it can take as long as 27 minutes

Protests by Amnesty Inter-Taylor, who dispensed with national and the American Civ-

il Liberties Union, and a rally in Salt Lake City earlier this week appeared to move few among Utah's politicians. Running through the controversy is the state's Mormon heritage, and the traditional teaching of today now distance themselves from it - that those who kill can avoid being cast into "outer darkness" after death only through the spilling of their own

atonement". In the past, some of the condemned in Utah have been shot at the site of their crimes, a coffin beside them. t Smyrna, Delaware - Billy Bailey, the murderer of an elthe church - though its leaders derly couple, climbed on to a wooden gallows and was hanged early yesterday, becoming only the third convict in the US to be executed in this way in 30 years, AP reports.

Soviet Lada boss to steer economy

PHIL REEVES Moscow

Speculation about the fate of Russia's fragile economic re-forms swelled yesterday as Boris Yeltsin appointed a Soviet-era industrialist to mastermind his economic policy, opening him-self to criticism that he is trying to curry favour with Communist and nationalist voters before the presidential election in June.

The Kremlin announced that Vladimir Kadanníkov, an executive from the Russia's troubled motor industry, would replace Anatoly Chuhais, the liberal-leaning minister who headed Russia's mass privatisation programme before being sacked last week.

His appointment is certain to fuel fears among the free mar-

ket lobby that the embattled President is willing to sacrifice Russia's tough, if painful, antiinflationary strategy in order to win support among an estranged electorate.

Although seen as relatively

progressive during the Gor-bachev era, Mr Kadannikov, 54, has advocated protectionism and import tariffs in his capacity as head of Russia's largest car plant, AvtoVAZ, which makes Ladas. A friend of Mr Yeltsin, and also of the President's hardline bodyguard, Alexander Korzhakov, he is thought to align himself with the more conservative element in the Kremlin's inner circle.

with a swing towards the right by the Yeltsin administration,

changes. cumstances".

His appointment coincides marked by the ousting of sev-

eral of its top liberals in favour of hardliners. Such is the volume of comment about the Kremlin's current tack that Mr Yeltsin yesterday decided to intervene, lambasting those who come to hasty, and superficial conclusions" about his personnel

According to the Interfax news agency, he said he had no intention of "betraying" his political or economic course, but talked about the need to be aware of the "tactics" of reform, which were "often forced by cir-

This suggests that the president has two aims. On the one hand, he seems to want to convince reformers that his latest moves are merely vote-winning tactics; on the other, he is clearpresenting himself as a decisive leader who will slay the dragons of corruption and poverty.

Whether cosmetic or not, the shift has been nothing if not eventful. Since the Communists' victory in December's parliamentary elections. Mr Yeltsin has replaced his foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev; his chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, and Mr Chubais - all reformers whose jobs have gone to more conservative successors.

Meanwhile, he launched a crude and failed attempt to crush by brute force a band of hostage-taking Chechen rebels

in Dagestan.

And yesterday, uncomplimentary comments were already circulating about Mr Kadannikov's credentials as

OJ faces the nation with plea of innocence

TIM CORNWELL Los Angeles

OJ Simpson finally went on tele-vision this week for the first time since being acquitted of double murder, insisting he was as in-nocent as any fellow American, and demanded that he be

treated accordingly.
"If you don't like me, leave me alone," said Mr Simpson. "I'm not bothering you."
Since October he has been sued by the families of his ex-

wife Nicole and Ronald Goldman, the murder victims, pilloried by radio talk-show hosts and cold-shouldered by advertisers and golf clubs alike. Immediately after his trial he

pulled out of a network televisinn interview, citing the advice of his lawyers, when it threatened to turn into a full-scale inquisition into his version of events. He was paid a reported \$3m (£2m) for a mail-order video, OJ: The Interview, and his appearance on Wednesday night on the only black-owned cable channel in the US was partly aimed at promoting the video, which retails at \$30.

The former sporting idol gave a polished, at times per-

suasive, performance in a sympathetic setting. He was not pressed on the evidence that persuaded most Americans watching his criminal trial that he was guilty, and which wrecked his career as a film actor and television personality.

Ducking questions about the night of the killings, he either cited the advice of his lawyers, or invited viewers to buy the video for the full answers. "I did not commit those murders," he said. "I could not kill anyone."

At times, however, the anger came through. Women's groups had made him a "whipping boy", and he was "pissed" at the families of his ex-wife and Ronald Goldman, now suing him for damages on the allegation that he stalked, stabbed

and slashed them to death Mr Simpson portrayed himself as the victim of racism in the Los Angeles Police Department and in the US at large. They want me to go to Africa? Go where?" he said, asked about people in his wealthy Los Angeles neighbourhood who put up signs calling him a killer. "I live in LA. If they don't want me in Brentwood, they should leave."



Fair hearing: OJ Simpson adjusts his earphone before his first TV appearance since his trial

He angrily denied reports of parties and high living, saying he constantly mourned Nicole. How much lower should I lay?" he asked. "What I would like to do is raise my kids, spend as much time as I can with my family, especially my mum, who is here tonight, and play golf." Initial reactions on the streets of Los Angeles appeared to show that his smooth performance had changed few minds either way.

Mr Simpson yesterday was questioned for the fourth day in a row by lawyers in the civil suit. Few details of this first grilling under oath have leaked out. though transcripts of the testimony will eventually he re-leased. The case is scheduled for April. But lawyers for the Goldman and Brown families say they have zeroed in on "inconsistencies" in his alibis. Pressed to explain why he failed to answer when a chauffeur called at

ders, the Simpson camp has suggested variously he was chipping golf balls, in the shower, or

In a replay of the convoy that followed him home from the trial, news helicopters trailed Mr Simpson's limousine to the Los Angeles studios of Black Entertainment Television. It was a major scoop for a station pop-ular across urban America, but which is better known for music videos than heavyweight

news coverage.

The interviewer, Ed Gordon, focused on what he said were issues of concern to hlack Americans, such as whether Mr Simpson had cashed in on the murder of his wife or turned

Mr Simpson cited scholarhis hack on his hiack roots. ships he funded for students in his old neighbourhoods. He said he was struggling to recover financially from millions lost in the court case, and to support

his gate on the night of the mur- his two children by Nicole.

triumph. Paris and Bonn rush to shore up faltering EMU

Despite British predictions to the contrary, senior government ministers in France and Germany insisted vesterday that the European Union would proceed on schedule with its plan to launch a single eurren-

Prime Minister Alain Juppe of France, his Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, and Germany's Foreign Minister. Klaus Kinkel, reaffirmed that monetary union would not be postponed and there would be no watering down of Maastricht's strict criteria for countries wish-

ing 10 join the single currency. Behind the unflinching exterior, however, it has become clear this week that EU governments have begun to contemplate the possibility that it may not be a good idea to go ahead with monetary union as planned in 1999. The doubts coincide with a conviction among European politicians and bankers that the Maastricht timetable is too rigid and takes no account of the slowdown in the European economy.

Only yesterday, France's Industry Minister, Franck Borotra, said that if he had to choose between Maastricht and jobs, he would choose jobs. Moreover, even Mr de Charette, before issuing his statement of unconditional support for the Maastricht treaty, had told a French radio station that it might be useful to interpret the treaty's rigid conditions on low budget deficits more flexibly, as proposed on Wednesday by a former president. Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

Italy's Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini, made much the same point about the cost in European jobs a few weeks ago when he said it would be foolish to proceed with the Euro, the recently christened single currency, as long as EU-wide unemployment averaged near-ly 11 per cent. Mr Dini seemed to underline Italian doubts about the wisdom of sticking to the 1999 deadline when he said that, as the country holding the

COMMENTARY

would henceforth concentrate s efforts on job creation. Meanwhile, Sweden's Finance Minister, Goran Persson, announced that he intended to relax the austerity programme he introduced last year, raise social security benefits and take measures to halve unemployment by 2000. This was tantamount to saying Sweden had no interest in joining a single cur-rency in 1999,



De Charette: Looking for more flexibility

However, the real bombshell came from Spain on Tuesday. when the Foreign Minister, Carlos Westendorp, in remarks not intended for publication, revealed that the EU would delay the 1999 launch unless a "critical mass" of countries met the Maastricht targets in time. These included Germany, France, the Deutschmark-zone states (the Benelux countries and Austria), and at least one from Britain, Italy and Spain.

France was convulsed before Christmas by its worst social unrest since 1968, and its economic growth this year is likely to be well below government predictions. The Maastricht deficit target of only 3 per cent of gross domestic product in 1997 is looking increasingly difficult for the French goverament to meet.

Still, if there were enough political will, it is possible to ima EU's rotating presidency, Italy ine circumstances in which

France - and other countries with deficit and public debt problems, such as Austria and Belgium — would be deemed suitable candidates for monetary union even if they did not quite meet the Maastricht targets. After all, Maastricht permits countries to join the single currency if they are making sufficient progress towards, rather than actually meeting, the defict and debt targets.

With Britain, Italy and Spain it is another matter. Few EU governments or independent economists think these countries will join up in 1999, either for political or economic reasons. The European Commission decided this week not to promote the Euro in Britain, a sure sign it does not expect Britain to be in the project from the start.

As for Italy, its formidably high public debt - 124 per cent of GDP, when Maastricht requires an upper limit of 60 per cent - makes it an unlikely participant. Spain not only bas a budget deficit of 6 per cent of GDP but shockingly high unemployment of almost 23 per cent, causing one former finance minister, Miguel Boyer, to comment this week that for Spain the Maastricht timetable was "a political trap with a high economic price".

The European Commission complains that to associate Maastricht with unemployment and recession is unfair. Officials correctly point out that EU governments would need to cut their deficits wbether or not there was a single currency project. However, if Mr Westendorp's leaked remarks are accurate, it seems likely that either the Euro will not be launched on time, or the Maastricht criteria will have to be

The problem is that to dilute or delay Maastricht would almost certainly cause enormous turbulence on the foreign exchange markets, possibly dooming the single currency for ever.

reinterpreted.

Fishermen to the rescue of a feathered friend in need



Breaking the ice: Anglers use an axe to try to free a grebe trapped in frozen waters at Roermond, the Netherlands

Americans brandish big stick over Bosnia

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

Speak softly and carry a big stick," said Theodore Roosevelt, an adage the Americans are putting into practice in northern Bosnia. Although they lack the long experience of peace-keeping of the British and French, the Americans have stumbled on one of its cardinal principles.

The armoured bridge-layers and wide, low "Humvees", cross-country vehicles carrying heavy machine guns, mingle with thousands of other green and black vehicles bearing the Tony Barber | Stars and Stripes, while military police direct everyone.

In the vastness of the desert ter a scare report that a single in the Gulf war, the impression made by the huge US presence was diluted. But in the narrow Bosnian lanes the sheer numbers, professionalism, self-confidence and swagger of the US 1st Armoured Division convey an awesome impression of American power. No local warlord is going to mess with these

people.

But for all their firepower, the Americans remain highly security-conscious. Their vehicles only travel in groups of four or more, while troops put on body armour and full battle equipment to move between buildings on the Tuzla base, which went on to a "red alert" this week af-

black mujahedin Muslim fighter was on the loose in a US uniform. The mujahedin were supposed to bave been out of Bosnia by mid-January, Between half and two-thirds

of the US-led Multinational Division (North) has now arrived, including troops from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Turkey and Russia. The Russians yesterday began

moving in their main body of military co-operation, it is bere. Incredibly, it might just work.

London (AP) — Bosnia troops by rail through Hungary to Bijeljina, on the "Serb side", as it is now known. but it is not possible to secure

Nato's supreme commander, US General George Joulwan, and the Russian special representative to Nato, Colonel-

"The last estimate 1 got is that General Leontiy Shevtsov, were there is somewhere between 200 due to fly to Tuzla from Moscow yesterday following talks with and 300 suspected grave sites in the Russian Defence Minister, Bosnia," he said. Visiting Srehrenica, eastern Bosnia, last weekend, the US General Pavel Gracbev, However, the freezing weather had

turned the huge Tuzla runway

Bosnia will in time be joined by

small units from Estonia, Latvia

and Lithuania. If ever there was

a laboratory for international

may hold up to 300 mass graves,

them all, the commander of

The nationalities already in

into an ice rink.

Assistant Secretary of State, Jobn Shattuck, spoke of evidence that up to 7,000 lie buried in mass graves. Richard Goldstone, head of the international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, said investigators would arrive at the reputed graves "in the very near future". On Wednesday, two Bosnian Serb leaders, Nikola Koljevic and Momcilo Krajisnik, promised to allow a full inquiry into alleged mass graves near Nato's peace force, Admiral into alleged mass graves in Leighton Smith, said yesterday. Srebrenica and elsewhere.

PRODUCT RECALL

STELLA ARTOIS BOTTLES (25cl bottle size, sold in packs of 24 only)



Stella Artois regret to announce that small fragments of glass have been found in a small number of 25cl bottles of Stella Artois beer. These bottles can only be bought as part of a pack of 24 from supermarkets, off licences and wholesalers in the UK. The affected bottles have all been withdrawn from public sale and production stopped.

The affected green bottles are all 25d, in a 24 pack, with a green label and a best before date from April 1996 up to and including September 1996. These bottles should not be opened and the beer should not be consumed.

The public are advised to return any affected bottles to the point of purchase for a refund.

All other Stella Artois products and packaging are unaffected. The unaffected products are Stella Artois 25cl sold in a 10 pack format. 25cl brown bottle packs. 25cl bottles with white labels. Stella 33cl bottles, Stella 330ml, 440ml and 500ml cans and Stella Dry 275ml bottles.

We are sorry to inconvenience you in this way. Even though there is only a slight risk to consumers, we think it is in everyone's interest that the bottles are withdrawn from stock.

For further information please call 0345 656065.

25d Stella Artois will be back on sale within the next seven days. The new 24 packs will be clearly labelled "New Production".



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT PEPS.

If you're about to invest in a Pep, it certainly pays to be in the know. The Peps Survey published in this week's Investors Chronicle contains all the information you need.

An essential guide to investment, it will help you to understand the ins and outs of Peps - which are often more involved than they first appear.

Included in the survey is a round-up of the latest Peps on the market and up-to-date performance tables.

You'll discover how Peps fit into the wider issue of personal financial planning. Will a Pep meet your investment goals, how do they compare to other

the rules on tax? We also belp you in choosing a suitable plan - deciding between income or growth - assessing the value of past performance - differentiating between charges, and understanding the different types of Peps.

investments and what are

Single Company Peps, Corporate Bond Peps, Unit Trust Peps, **Investment Trust Peps, Savings** Schemes, and Self-select Plans. Essential reading, before you invest.

Investors Chronicle, complete with Peps Survey is on sale on 26th January 1996 from your local newsagent. Price £2.00.



international

Spy scandal: Security agency disowns 'amateurish' snooping

SA minister latest victim in bugging mystery

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

Someone is bugging, tracking and, in general, snooping on very important people in South

Over the past few weeks, the country has been rocked by reports that government ministers have been tracked and senior police officers' homes and offices bugged, James Bond-style, with electronic devices attached to their telephones, ceilings

In the latest revelation, the Minister for Land Affairs, Derek Hanekom, announced this week that a sophisocated tracking device had been found in his official car in November. For weeks he kept the thin metal transmitting device in the car ashtray, thinking it was an andtheft device. After an aide expressed concern he took it to the police, who identified it as a chip capable of transmitting the minister's movements to airborne



Vice-President Mbeki: Denies he was involved

The fact a government minister and top police officials, including proviocial police commissiooers, were heing spied oo is beyood doubt. The questions are, who is responsible and why?

Most flogers have been pointed at the National Intelligence Ageocy (NIA), the new internal security body whose activities are under investigation hy a judicial commission of inquiry and parliameot's intelligence committee. The NIA denies it was responsible for bugging the police and tracking Mr Hanekom, saying: "We ... would like to think that we, when necessary, do it more professionally than these obviously amateurish efforts."

A spokesman, Willem Theron, dismissed the reports as the machinations of rival security organisations who want to discredit the agency. "The whole thing sounds strange to us. Our stated policy is that we do not spy on political parties' officials," he said.

Doubts linger about the NIA denials. Perhaps the most damaging allegations against the NIA were made at the weekend by a former municipal official. Werner van Greunen, a former secretary to a mayor north of Johannesburg, said he was hired by the NIA with the knowledge nf the Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, tri spy on National Party members in local government and report on "unconstitutiooal activities which threatened the government".

Among those he said he was ordered to spy on were Butch Breytenbach, brother of a former defence minister. Wynand Brevtenbach, Mr van Greunen said his targets were members of the the Broederbond, the semi-secret conservative society nf Afrikaner intellectuals.

Mr Mbeki's staff denied all knowledge of spying opera-tions involving Mr van Greunen. They said he approached the Vice-President volunteering information "which implicated senior government officials in criminal cooduct". Because of the serious oature of the alleations, Mr Mbeki and the Safety and Security Minister, Sydney Mufamadi, met Mr van Greunen. But he had failed to back his claims with evidence.

Mr van Greuneo has failed to provide proof to support his claims. There are suggestions he coococted the story to deflect atteotion from an investigacioo into financial irregularities.

Mr van Greunen insists be was a spy and Mr Mbeki and Mr Mufamadi were aware of his activities, "I am quite confident I have spoken the truth and that all the allegations made in my affidavit [to the police] can be substantiated." he said

Whether or not the NIA was asked to spy on National Party members, there is evidence of unexplained surveillance. Mark Shaw, an intelligence expert at the South African Institute for Defence Policy, said: "The only thing you can say for sure is that these reports will form the first test of the government's commitmeot to oversight of intelligeoce activities,"

Accused president wants referendum

Columbia's President Ernestn Samper, under widespread pressure to resign for allegedly accepting cocaine proceeds, has called for a referendum on whether he should stay in nffice, writes Phil Davison.

The country's worst political crisis in years erupted this week when Mr Samper's detained former campaign manager and defence minister, Fernando Botero, broke a long silence and said Mr Samper knew the 1994 campaign was taking millions of dollars from the Cali cocaine cartel. Mr Botero's lawyer, Feroando Londoño, went further, saying it was Mr Samper whn solicited the money.

Only two people on the

campaign had that power, Sam-per and Botero, and it wasn't Botero," the lawver said. Mr Samper insists the reverse is true. In a television interview. he said he had confined himself to the political side of the campaign while Mr Botero had handled its administration,

including finances.

With the President and his former close friend and aide accusing each other of lying, it has come down to a question of which of them the Colombians believe. One poll said 62 per cent believed Mr Botero while 20 per ceot believed Mr Samper. In another, 57 per cent of Colombians said the President

To take advantage of our lowest rate ever call now on-

FREEPHONE

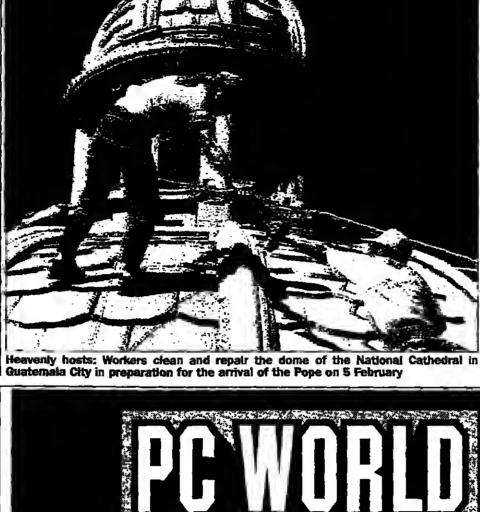
0800 30 3000

Quoting ref. 91003/200 ... HAMILTON Direct Bank

*13.8% APR is available on loans from £5.000 to £10.000. 16.5% APR is available on loans from £5.00 to £4.259. Loans for business or timeshare purposes are encluded. Rates are correct as at 1001796. A written quoration of our credit teams is available on requires. All loans are subject to status. You main be aged 21 years of over and in receipt of a regular income. This offer is not available in the lake of Man.

milion Direc, Bank, J. Jacobon of HFC Bank pic, an authorised unstitution or the Banking Act 196". Registered Office North Street, Windsheld, Windson Berkahire SI-9 4TD. Registered in England No. 1117305.

and profit aftern



John Grisham wins his last case

John Grisham, Mississippi lawyer turned best-selling author, won his last case on Wednesday - at his first trial as a defence attorney in seveo years. The author of The Firm. The Pelican Brief and several other novels with legal themes, convinced a jury that the Illinois Central Railroad was responsible for the 1991 death of a brakeman crushed between two rail carriages.

After two hours of deliber-

ation, the jury awarded Barbara King \$633,500 (£444,000) in the death of her husband. John. "It's the biggest verdict I've ever gotten. I'm tickled to death," said Mr Grisham, who was hired by Mrs King before he became an international bestselling author.
After a lottery draw, 25 Gr-

isham fans got seats for the trial in the Lincoln County rail town of Brookhaven. "Some of you may have heard of me through my

books," Mr Grisham told the "As far as I'm concerned, that's totally irrelevant to any-thing we're doing here." He added: "I'm not going to ask how many of you have read

my books.

T once asked some high school students that, and was humiliated."

PEOPLE



Mikired Trouillot: A distraction for Aristide

o some observers, the wedding of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Mildred Trouillot last weekend was as much a political contract as a marital union, with the couple vowing to serve the Haitian people.
"When you look at this ring.

remember me and remember you are an advocate of the peo-ple," the oot-so-romantic Presideot told his hride, a New York-born Haitian lawyer,

during the ceremony.

Ms Trouillot urged Mr Aristide to see his ring and "remember that it is hetter to fail with the people than to succeed without them, and with the people there is no failure".

Many poor Haitians were worried that Mr Aristide's commitment to them will wane

They reckon that his wife simply a light-skinned foreigner to many — will oot un-derstand their suffering. This business about di-

vorcing the people - no way, the President said after the lowkey wedding, during which the couple barely glanced at each other and exchanged only awk-ward kisses oo the check.

Bernard Tapie is embarking on yet another career. The French business tycoon - an expop singer, former television presenter, ex-government minister and former owner of the Olympique de Marseille football team - is to perform in a "teoder and cruel comedy" film, Hommes. Femmes, Mode d'Emploi. directed by Claude

Leiouch. "Tve been asking Tapie to be in one of my movies for 20 years," Mr Lelouch told the newspaper Le Figaro. He has an essential quality for the movies: he knows how to be convincing.

Mr Tapie wasn't coovincing enough to avoid conviction last year on corruption charges. But Mr Lelouch, who won an Oscar for his 1966 film Un Homme et Une Femme, is oot

"I have directed the top actors and I am confident Tapie is a film star." he said. The movie, starring Annuk Aimée, is about modern soci-

ety as the century draws to an end, Mr Lelouch said. He reckons Mr Tapie is typ-

ical of the times. "He is a man in a hurry in an era that is in even more of

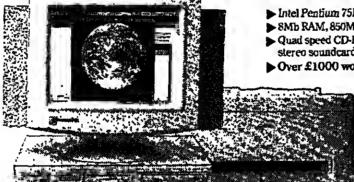
The filmiog itself is being

done quickly.

Mr Tapie still faces a prison seotence, against which he is appealing.

Maryann Bird





▶ Intel Pentium 75MHz processor. ► 8Mb RAM, 850Mb hard disk. ▶ Quad speed CD-ROM drive. stereo soundcard & speakers. Over £1000 worth of software!

PACKARD BELL 905D MULTIMEDIA

CANON BJC 4000 ▶720 DPI resolution. ▶Up to 3 pages per minute. ▶Flexible media handling.

CD-ROM drive

Was £1599 ex VAT. £1761.33 INC. VAT

8Mb RAM. 1.2 Gb hard disk. Quad spred

PACKARD BELL

Intel Pentium 75MHz proce

ADVENT

APRICOT 150MHz INTEL PENTIUM PROCESSOR.
16MD RAM. L2Gb hard disk. 14° SVGA colour monitor.
Quad speed multimedia. Fax modern with On-line software. Software included: Windows 95, Lotus SmartSuite v4, Quicken, CorelDraw & MODEL: MS540 P150

> MULTIMEDIA £2818.83 INC. VAT £2399 EX

PACKARD BELL Intel Pentium 133MHz processor. 8Mb RAM, 1.2Gb hard disk. Quad speed multimedia. Fax modern/answe Over £1000 worth of software.

MOOEL 911E MULTIMEOLA

BM

COMPAQ

USUALLY £1199 ex VAT.

nications card. radio card. £2099EX 1000 worth of software. 22466.33 INC. VAT

Intel Pennum 100MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 854Mb hard disk, Quad speed CU-ROM drive.

speakers, 15" MS month Windows 95, Works, Mu War 51797 51699 ca VAT. MODEL: APTIVA 2144-941

£1878.83 INC. VAT £1599 EX

486DX4 100MHz processor. 8Mb RAM. 540Mb hard disk. 14" SVGA monitor. Quad spe stereo soundeard & speakers.
Fax modem facility, Windows 95. £1149ex MODEL: PRESARIO 7110 MULTIMEDIA £1350.88 INC. VAT

remote controlled communications card. Radio card Over £1000 of Was £1529 ex VAT. MODEL: 907C £1737.83 INC. VAT 1479 EX ACER NEW Cvrix 5x86 100MHz processor, 8Mb RAM 540MB hard disk, 14" monitor. Quad speed Multimedia, Windows 95 £999 WAT MODEL: ACER ACROS 5x86 £1173.83 INC. VAT APPLE PowerPC 603 75MHz processor.

BMb RAM, 800Mb hard disk. Integrated 15" FST display, Quad speed multimedia, System 7.5, Claris Works 3 and 20 other titles. Was 1299 ex VAT MODEL APPLE 5200CD £1467.58 DKC. VAT

Intel Pentium 100MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 850Mb hard disk. 14" SVGA monitor, Quari speed CD-ROM drive, stereo soundcard £1399× & speakers, Windows 95, plus 5 CD rives. Was £1499 ex VAT. MODEL-P100 MULTIMEDIA

100's OF CLEARANCE AND EX-DEMO PRODUCTS AVAILABLE. **HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS**

SAVE #8 £200 ON PORTABLE PCs

486DX4 75MHz processor, 8Mb RAM 360Mb hard disk, t0.4" dual expandable keyboard. MODEL: IBM THINKPAD 701 DS3 includes leather case.

\$538.83 DC. VAT

£2172,58 INC, VAT £1849 EX ACER

486DX475MHz processor, 4Mb RAM 340MB hard disk, 9.5° mono display. £799× 2 type II PCMCIA slots, Windows 95. MOOEL: ACER ACERNOTE 7671

APPLE

68LCO40 processor, SMb RAM, 500MB hard disk, Dual scan colour display. £1499ex 2 type II PCMCIA slots, Touch pad ing device. Was £1599. MODEL: APPLE POWERBOOK 190c R1761.33 MC VAT

COMMUNICATIONS

Send/receive/manage faxes. Specifically designed for Windows 95. View all fax and all messages in one place. Windows 9 multitasking, 'Offer applies when bought

with any modern. Usually £79 ex VAT. £57.58 INC. VAT £49 INTEGRATED Brand new versions of Lotus 123, Lotus WORDPRO, Lottes APPROACH, Lottes

OWERPOINT and Lotus ORGANISER Now enhanced for use with Windows 95 (Upgrade). Was £199 ex VAT. MODEL: SMARTSUITE 96UPGRADE UTILITY Norton 3 Pack

Three of the best selling software in the Norton range. •Norton Anti-Virus. •Norton Utilities. •Norton Navigator. £89& Offer applies when bou TSSP£237 ex VAT EDUCATIONAL

A full range of Dorling Kindersley multimedia educational software all available at reduced prices, e.g. Encyclopedia of Nature – Was £42.50. GRAPHICS

CoreiDraw V6. The 32 bit Windows 95 Version of the ultimate drawing package Was £349 ex VAT. RAM DOUBLER

SoftRAM 95 Increase the speed of your PC by doubling the RAM without the need to take the lid off your PC. Was £59 ex VAT.

£29× £34.68 DKC, YAT £329× £386.58 INC. VAT

£179%

£210.33 PKC, VAT

£104.58 RIC. WIT

DIGITAL design, 486DX2 50 MHz hard drive. 9.5" dual scan colour display, Integrated MODEL HI NOTE ULTRA CS 450 Includes PCMCIA Moden £2055.08 INC. VAT £17

TOSHIBA

486DX4 75MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 520Mb hard disk, 10.4° dual scan colour display, 2 type II PCMCIA slots, Windows 95. Was £1599 ex VAT. MODEL: 2130CS £1643.83 FNC, VAT

SHARP Laser Printer 500 x 600 DPI resolution pages per minute output.

Automatic image refiness MODEL: SHARP JX9200

£351,33 DC, VA FREE

HEWLETT PACKARD Laser Printer 600 x 600 DPI resolution printer. Up to 6 pages per minute output 2Mb RAM memory enhancement

250 sheet paper tray. MODEL: HEWLETT PACKARD 5P

FREE DESKTOP **PUBLISHING** SOFTWARE SERIF PAGE PLUS (FOR WIN 95 OR 3.1)

HEWLETT PACKARD 800 x 800 DPI resolution 1Mb RAML 6 pages per





600 x 300 DPI resolution Up to 4 pages per minute. Microsoft Windows printing system. Was £329 ex VAT

£351.33 INC, VAT £299 EX

MONTHS INTI

APREE OPTIO

OR 48 MONTI

•

REPAYMENT

Poor pay heavy price in China's brutal hospitals

TERESA POOLE

In the emergency wing of the Peking Children's Hospital, the three-year-old girl's parents were looking desperate. They bad arrived from Yi county in central Hebei province, dressed in traditional peasant padded-cotton winter clothes, hoping to find a hospital willing to treat their daughter for leukaemia.

Tears rolled down both parents cheeks as they explained what had happened. A doctor planned to check whether the girl was strong enough for a bone marrow operation. But even if she was, nothing would be done unless the parents provided a 20,000 yuan (£1,600) deposit, more than 16 times the average peasant's earnings in a year. "We are only lao bai xing [common people]." wept the father. "Where can we find this large amount of money?

Since they had arrived, the family had been staying on a construction site, where migrant workers from their village are employed, or in very basic hostels. The little girl was so weak she could eat only vogurt. If an operation was the only hope, they would return to their village 60 miles away and try to borrow the money, the parents said.

The Peking Children's Hos-pital is probably the best of its kind in China. But the scene in the waiting rooms gives some idea of the brutality of China's

Human Rights Watch recently focused on the high death rate among orphans and abundoned children across Chi-na, often through deliberate negleet. But those horrifying statistics are only one aspect of China's harsh welfare system. It is shocking, but not surprising, that abandoned children are left to die in orphanages, given the way that some sick children who do have parents are dealt with, now that treatment is on a pay-

as-you-go basis. Leukaemia is a disease that many developing countries can-not afford to treat. But on a visit to the hospital waiting rooms there was no difficulty in finding other routine examples of children for whom there is no medical safety net.

A migrant worker from Sichuan who had been living in Peking for several years had hrought in his five-year-old son, who was suffering from pneu-monia. The father's clothes were ragged. As the child sat slumped on the ground in the corner, a medical orderly was telling the father he must pay 110 yuan (£9) for another dose of medicine, "Otherwise it is too late," she said. The father was in despair: "I do not have a place to live. Where can I get such money?

In a rare act of compassion, a comfortably-off Peking father wbo witnessed the scene stepped forward and paid for the boy's injection. The medical



Weighed down: A sick child in hospital in Sichuan. For rural Chinese, medical treatment is an expensive luxury Photograph: Gilles Peres / Magnum

about tomorrow?" She told the boy's father: "You should find

divide is between city and rur- enough to work for a hankrupt al people. The former, attached to danwei (work units), are re-

enterprise. China's 900 million rural people, by contrast, in-

In their case, the former socialist medical system has virtually evaporated, while the new medical insurance schemes that are being tried out cover

At the Peking Children's Hospital, administrators said prices were the same for city or rural patients. The hospital works at its limits. The 700 beds are always full and about 5,000

country come for outpatient care. But for the Chinese gov-ernment to plead lack of resources in this case seems disingenuous. This was a city that spent a fortune in a bid for the 2000 Olympics, and where the party chief is under "investigation" over a £24m corrup-

tion scandal. In China's market economy, everything has a price tag. In the crowded bospital cashiers' room, the mother of a five-yearold boy recovering from a tonsillectomy was queuing to pay the 1,795 yuan (£144) bill for eight days in bospital. The bill was broken down in detail: Medicine 800 yuan; surgery 300 yuan; use of a bed 60 yuan; heating 300 yuan; nursing care 35 yuan; and food 300 yuan. The mother explained that her urban work unit would meet most of the hill for medicines hut nothing else, as it was not an

emergency.
This week the government organised a hriefing to defend the country's human rights record. Amid talk of judicial procedures, and "hostile" Western buman rights groups, Liu Hainian, director of the Law Institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Science, admitted that "another important as-pect" to human rights in China was the provision of "social in-surance". Human rights, he said, consisted of the right to social security as well as political rights. "More effort should be made to improve human rights in China," he said.

These examples illustrate the orderly sneered. "It is useless," imbursed, at least in part, for cluding millions of migrant welfare system, even in one of she said. "It can only support the two-tiered medical system now medical costs by their employworkers, usually have to pay for the country's richest cities. child for a short period. How operating in China. The gaping ers, unless they are unlucky INTEREST FREE OPTION ON OVER 75 PCs HURRY! LAST FEW DAYS 5,000 computer products, available All the products and back-up support Specially trained staff for upgrades, Try before you buy with hands on demos and advice from our expert staff. for you to take away today. to meet your business needs. configurations and installations. CD-ROM STORES NATIONWIDE

NEW

axes and access

£QQ

£199₩

£116.33 INC. VAT 33 V

279點

£327.83 INC. VAT

£399 E

£468.83 INC. VAT

MODEM

US Robotics Sportster VL

HARD DRIVE

Full fitting instructions.

Was 5219 ex VAT.

Internal fittings. IDE device.

MULTIMEDIA KIT Creative Labs Home Multimedia Kit. Quad speed drive, 16 bit soundcard

& stereo speakers Top Microsoft titles. Was £299 cx VAT.

MEMORY 30 Pin & 72 Pin SIMMS. 1 Mb, 4Mb parity & non parity.

e.g. 16Mb non parity. Was £449 ex VAT. SCANNER Trust Colour Flatbed 12000 DPI resolution. Single pa

Was £359 ex VAT. 6 MONTHS INTEREST **FREE OPTION**

OR 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS

*BASED ON CURRENT SELLING PRICES OF ACTUAL OR EQUIVALENT TIMES (DICLE INTEL INSIDE AND PENTILM LOGOS ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE INTEL CORPORA

Creative Labs Six Speed. Fully motorised tray. Connects to any IDE interface. 900 KBPF transfer rate. Was £169. £179 ex VAT.

£175.08 INC. VAT PENTIUM OVERDRIVES

Intel Pentium Overdrives Easy way to upgrade your existing 486 PC. 83MHz models.

READING

SLOUGH

SOUTHAMPTON

SPRUCEFIELD

STOKE

LONDON AREA

BRENTFORO

CROYDON

ENFIELD

GUILDFORO

LAKESIDE

MEOWAY

ABEROEEN BIRMINGHAM JUNCTION 9 OFF M6) BRISTOL **CARDIFF** COLCHESTER **EOINBURGH**

GLASGOW LEEOS LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER NORTHAMPTON PORTSMOUTH

STAPLES CORNER

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Seoul blocking food for North

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The efforts of international agencies to prevent famine in North Korea are being hampered by the obstructions of South Korea's government, according to Western diplomats and UN officials.

North Korea suffered severe floods last summer, which inundated homes and rice fields in rural areas. An international appeal by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has drawn a disappointing response, generating only \$1.5m (£1m) of the \$8.8m necessary to feed half ble victims through the coldest

part of the winter. Widespread malnutrition among pregnant women and young children threatens to escalate into a famine affecting more than 2.5 million children and pregnant mothers, according to Trevor Page, the WFP's country director for North Котеа.

"The government here surprised the world by asking for assistance last year," he said in Pyongyang. "They bave admitted what the problem is. We bave confirmed what the problem is. So where are the supplies?

In Hawaii yesterday, the US assistant secretary of state for east Asian affairs, Winston Lord, continued talks with his counterparts from Tokyo and Seoul in an attempt to answer that question.

A food crisis has serious security implications for an economically flailing Stalinist country with a million-strong army massed near the border with its rich southern neighbour. The US has said that it is willing to provide aid beyond the \$225,000 committed last year. Japan has remained cautious, although the government wishes to establish full diplomatic re-

lations with Pyongyang. The obstruction is the Seoul government, which repeated its position yesterday. "The government considers it difficult to extend any aid to North Korea as long as the North refusa million of the most vulnera- es to resume an official dialogue with the South and keeps up an antagonistic stance," said the Prime Minister, Lee Soo Sung.

Officials from a third country. Seoul insists, must verify the severity of the rice shortage, and ensure aid does not reach the armed forces, which are believed to have large stockpiles.

Scoul has good reasons for caution. The government of President Kim Young Sam was humiliated last year when the crew of a South Korean ship carrying part of a 150,000-ton rice donation were forced to fly a North Korean flag, and accused of spying.

But foreign observers suspect a more practical reason for South Korea's stubbornness. In April, President Kim's party faces testing parliamentary elections. A tough line against the North is considered a solid vote-winner.

IN BRIEF

German scientist fed atomic aid to Iraq

Vienna — A German nuclear scientist supplied President Saddam Hussein of Iraq with key details on uranium enrichment. central to Baghdad's secret attempt to build a nuclear bomb, an official of the International Atomic Energy Agency said. The United Nations agency uncovered fresh information about the German, who was not named, while studying papers yielded by the Iraqis following the defection of Hussein Kamel Hassam, a son-in-law of President Saddam, to Jordan last August. Rewer

Ten-year-old pregnant runaway found

Houston — Police have found Cindy Garcia, a 10-year-old runaway who is eight-and-a-half months pregnant, and her boyfriend, Pedro Sotelo, 22, in a flat. Miss Garcia fled from a youth home on Sunday. She was being held in protective custody and Mr Sotelo was arrested on a charge of aggravated sexual assault. AP

Muslim Brotherhood set to enter politics

Cairo — Members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist organisation, have applied for permission to launch a political party, the brotherhood's new leader said. The party, which has 74 founding memhers, plans to call itself the Wasat (Centre) Party.

Cousteau's 'Calypso' back from the deep

Singapore — Jacques Cousteau's research vessel Calypso, which sank after being hit by a barge, was dragged from the murky waters off Singapore on Thursday for repairs at a local shipyard. The Calypso tipped over and sank on 8 January. Cousteau plans to replace the ship with a new, state-of-the-art vessel that is under construction in France.

Bahrain arrests more dissidents

Manama — Bahrain said it has arrested another group of protesters in a widespread crackdown on anti-government activities. and is now bolding 544 dissidents. An interior ministry statement said they were being held in connection with alleged sabotagand riois in several Shia Muslim villages.

Reuter

Saudi king well enough to appear on TV

Dubai - King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appeared on television for the first time since handing over power to his brother. Crown Prince Abdullah, on 1 January. Saudi Television showed the king, who suffered a stroke in November, receiving senior members of the

Wilfred Stiff

Though Wilfred Stiff worked in vived, hroadened horizons and a range of managerial positions within the classical music business over a period of more than 40 years, it is possibly his first achievement that will be

remembered longest. Fresh from active, often dangerous service with the Navy during the Second World War. he became secretary of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society in 1946. This brought responsibility as general manager for a Liv-erpool Philharmonic Orchestra facing major financial crisis, baving gone full-time in the un-promising climate of 1942. when the city was a magnet for émigré London musicians. That the Philharmonic became established as one of the leading British orchestras (under the direction of the likes of Malcolm Sargent and Hugo Rignold) had much to do with Suff's financial acumen, his determination that playing standards were central to success and, not least, his flair for artistic innovation. The relish for new ideas remained with him all his life.

Stiff's qualifications for the job in Liverpool were on paper merely those of many an amateur music lover. As a boy - educated at Tollington School in Muswell Hill, north London he was head chorister at St Alban the Martyr in High Hol-born. (Here admittedly his choirmaster was someone a little out of the ordinary - Reginald Goodall, later to conduct the premiere of Britten's Peter Grimes.) Apart from this Stiff was an avid concert-goer, a Queen's Hall devotee, but no sort of musical practitioner. The start of his working life was humdrum - as a clerk for the North Met Power Company. War, as for so many who sur-

toughened sinews - excellent preparation for tooth-and-nail battles with the local Liverpool council over funding of the orchestra and financial responsibility for Philharmonic Hall. Stiff was involved in a string of innovations, inaugurating the Industrial Concerts which opened doors to new andiences (as I can testify from personal experience) and putting Prom concerts into a hoxing stadium. It was Stiff who sought for the orchestra the "Royal" prefix, which was granted shortly after his departure in 1956 for new challenges in Lon-don. Beyond the Philharmonic, Stiff bad a band in the formation of the Merseyside Youth Orchestra (which was to nurture Simon Rattle) and m

bringing Glyndebourne to Liv-

erpool - a coup which helped pave the way for the concept of Glyndebourne Touring Opera. In London Stiff took the future in his own hands. Public relations in the musical field has a much longer history than we tend to assume, but Stiff was nonctheless among the new breed who saw how important PR would be in the developing world of communications, forming Wilfred Stiff Ltd, which over 10 years handled the media profiles of the likes of the pianisi Gina Bachauer, the London Sympbony Orchestra and the inimitable Tom Lehrer. For three years from 1968 he stepped back into the management of a performing arts organisation, becoming ad-ministrative director of the then London Festival Ballet. Once again be rescued a sinking ship, halancing the books and doubling audiences, but ultimately

he decided the world of hallet

held less appeal than the music itself.

A chance meeting at a dinner party with a director of the London Management agency which represented a string of top actors - brought Stiff into the field of concert artist management, where he was to remain until retirement in the mid-1980s. Having developed a classical music wing to London Management through the simple expedient of huying up an existing music agency, the Wil-frid van Wyck office, Stiff then proposed acquiring Ibbs & Tillett, one of the legendary names in classical music artist management. When the deal fell through at the very last moment, Stiff had already moved into libbs and Tillett's offices at 124 Wigmore Street. So there he stayed, invited to become a company director by Emmie Tillett, widow of the firm's cofounder and one of the world's best-known managers.
This was a crucial time for the

agency. A failure to move with the times was leading to haemorrhaging of staff and of musi-cians. When Mrs Tillett handed over the business to Stiff in the late 1970s, be presided over a dramatic turn-round in management style which, if not recapturing past glories, made a rebuilding process possible, Even so, selling artists in the modern, furiously competitive fashion wasn't exactly Stiff's style. He believed that the musical grapevine would see justice done. Ever the diplomat, he was at his hest as a solicitous min-der looking after, in his suave way, the needs of established international artists such as Emil Gilels, Clifford Curzon, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and the Amadeus String Quartet.



the firm collapsed (amid an alltoo-public controversy over alleged financial mismanagement) four years after be had retired and handed over the reins. That retirement was dizzyingly active, whether it meant continuing to serve on the board of Trinity College of Music, supervising the devel-opment of facilities at the Eal-

It was a shock to Stiff when at Brentside High School. Tennis and swimming were great passions, the former always prompting animated conversation and punditry. While not qualifying as a true raconteur, be was one of the great talkers, as I learnt early in 1978 when he phoned the shop where I was working with the offer of a job. Almost immediately the phone went dead and I returned to my ing tennis club, dipping his toe in local constituency politics or chairing the board of governors tasks, expecting a call hack. Several minutes later none had arrived so enquiries were made

with the switchboard. After further delay I was reconnect-ed. Stiff was still talking,

oblivious of any interruption. Wilfred Stiff is survived by his wife and tennis-companion, the delightfully dry and wistful san, and three children.

Andrew Green

Wilfred Charles Stiff, music manager: born London 30 November 1918; married 1949 Susan Gill (two sons, one daughter); died London 15 January 1996.

Maj-Gen Ashton Wade

Ashton Wade's life and carcer covered most of the 20th century and tremendous developments in the technology of telecommunications. One of the founder members of Royal Signals in 1921, he went on to become the senior planning engineer to the Independent Television Authority in the years 1954-60, at a time of rapid

In 1915, with the Great War in progress, his eyes were opened to the enormous future of electrical communication by his uncle Sir Capel Holden. a Gunner Brigadier and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He came to Royal Signals from the Royal Artillery, which he had joined in 1916 (heing seconded to the Royal Engineers from 1918 to 1921). The war extended into 1919 and took the young Wade to Ypres, where he was wounded, Caporetto and the Italian campaign. when he was awarded an MC, and to Russia.

In 1920 he was offered a place at Cambridge. Due to the efforts of Professor F.J.M. Stratton, an Outstanding wartime Chief Signal Officer, the War Office had agreed that graduate training be provided to enadvance in step with civil engineering; Wade took a First. He spent the remainder of the Twenties helping to hulld the reputation of the new corps. He moved to Catterick Camp, which became the bome of Royal Signals in 1925, to instruct the Young Officer entry, and lived to see the handing over of the military garden city to the Infantry 70 years later.

After working for what be-came the Royal Engineer and Signals Board on research and design of equipment, Wade won a vacancy on the 1934 College course at Camberley (fellow entrants included the geologist Ralph Bagnold), followed by staff appointments in India at GHQ in Simla, in Karachi, where much time was spent belping the victims of the great Quetta earthquake, and eventually in Quetta itself. ft was always his regret that he did not spend more time in a regiment with Indian soldiers and thereby become more famillar with their

language and customs. Returning to England in ear-1940 Wade was soon posted to France, where he took part in operations before being evacsure that military engineering uated from Dunkirk. He was

no further Signals appointments; trained staff officers were in short supply.

The 2nd Division, which be joined as senior administrative officer, sailed for Egypt in April 1942. However events in Burma caused the ship to be diverted at Cape Town for Bombay. Wade was ordered to GHQ Delhi and promoted from colonel to major-general - one of the very few major-generals who never held the rank of brigadier. He dealt with all matters relating to British formations and soldiers then pouring into the theatre, and in

September 1944 moved to staff to carry out their own func-Madras in charge of the immense development of facilities for the invasion of Malaya, when formations freed from the war in Europe would arrive to help defeat the Japanese.

Much has been told of the preparations for D-Day in England, but because of the atom bomb and the enemy surrender similar work in India never receives attention. A further prob-lem related to RAPWI, the returned allied prisoners of war and internees, many thousands of whom were shipped into

The end of the war brought much political activity directed at the early realisation of selfgovernment in India. The different approach of Congress and the Muslim League flashed warning of internal troubles. Early in 1946 Wade was recalled to Delhi to plan and run an all-India internal defence exercise and I was borrowed from the Indian Airborne Division as his Signals Staff Officer. The task was immense and the time short. If there were any fears of failure they were soon dispelled by discussion with our leader. He was confident, clearheaded and calm, leaving his

tions. Plainly his reputation remained high at GHQ in New Delhi as he was called up there to serve on the Indian Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee.

In a final year overseas as GOC Malaya, he faced many problems in a country that had suffered seven years of enemy occupation and was witnessing the growth of activities of Chinese Communist guerrillas. The "emergency" which was to last for 12 years had started. On his return to England in

mid-1948 Wade was told that he was to be placed on the retired list. He was 50 years old, prime time for senior management, and he was out of a job. After three dismal months of jobhunting a temporary military an pointment as Chairman of the Review of War Crime Sentences (Europe) Board came his way, followed by a second at the trial of the Nazi Field Marshal Erich von Manstein, which gave him work until the end of 1950. At this point fortune smiled. The Post Office asked the War

Office to find a retired Signals officer to fill the appointment of Telecommunications Attaché at Washington, Ashton Wade

was approached. He worked in the British Emhassy for six years at a time of rapid development in telecommunications; he also learned a great deal about independent television organisations. Back home this knowledge led to employment as senior planning engineer of the ITA for six years, followed by his appointment as regional officer with Anglia TV (1960-

64) and at the Inter-University
Research, Unit, Cambridge
(1965-69): ***

Work for the WRVS till be
was 77 and then for his wife's
family firm took him into his late eighties and gave him time thereafter to write an autobiography, A Life on the Line

David Horsfield

Douglas Ashton Lofft Wade, soldier and engineer: born Saffron Walden 13 March 1898; MC 1918; OBE 1941; CB 1946; Telecommunications Attaché. British Embassy, Washington 1954-60; Senior Planning Engi-neer, TLA 1954-60; Regional Officer, Anglia, ITA 1960-64; married 1926 Heather Bulmer (died 1968; one daughter), 1972 Cynthia Halliday (née Allen); died Norwich 14 January 1996.

in Welsh, arranged for this lo-

Ann Elwell

Ann Glass was one of M15's conspicuous, yet suitably discreet, successes. From being a fun-loving member of "the Office" in 1940 she became a highly placed executive after the war when she replaced Anthony Blunt in Rome to read Mussolini's secret papers just after his death.

Ten years later she married a fellow MI5 officer, Charles Elwell, and they were posted to Singapore, where Ann managed to find full-time freelance work while having three children in as many years - another example of her efficiency. In 1955 the Elwells returned to base, Ann had ber fourth child and only left MI5 to join the secret brainchild of the Foreign Office, the Information Research Department (IRD), which despite its catch-all title was in fact dedicated to ending Communism by any means. She made several trips for the IRD to the Middle East, ber allotted territory. Although she retired officially in the late 1970s, people like her never really let go and from time to time she was asked for her expert opinion of, and/or to write, special reports.
Young hopefuls of today who
may well he envious of her

achievements might take note of the many talents that led Ann Elwell into the world of Intelligence. To start with, both her parents, Dr Robert Glass (a GP) and Eileen Smartt, were deter-mined that their only child should be well educated, an accomplished linguist, and a keen follower of the arts. To this end she went to Miss Faunce's (later Miss Lambert's) school in Bayswater, west London, became fluent in French and German, took School Certificate (a cross between today's GCSEs and A levels) at the age of 14, and visited pre-war Germany, where ber German was so good that, when she found herself alone in a botel lift with a German, he admonished her for consorting with "those terrible
English people" - ber parents.
As a precocious 15-year-old,

she was sent to Florence to the Misses Lestrange's famed fin-ishing school to combine learning fluent Italian with art tours and more than a dash of social high-life, Back in London she attended the Monkey Club in Pont Street to be taught the domestic arts, the rudiments of typing, and bow to behave In "Society". Somewhere along the line sbe added Spanish to her repertoire of languages. This somewhat rusbed pro-gramme was finished off with a brief foray into acting at the Webber-Douglas drama school. Her mother then decided that her 16-year-old daughter should be a debutante; she came out at what was to he the last of the

I was an exact contemporary of Ann Glass's, going to the same children's parties and dancing school. At one of Vacani's annual dancing matinées at the Hippodrome Theatre, I have a vivid memory of her in a smart drum majorette's uniform as leader of the Ruritanian Guard, while I had to settle for a pantomime dame's outfit as mother-in-law of the Prince. arriving on stage in a magnificent limousine of a pedal car (courtesy of Harrod's children's bairdressing department).

London seasons, in 1939.

In 1940 we were both, aged 18, inducted into MI5 as temporary wartime staff. Glass was recruited by Brigadier "Jasper" Harker, the Deputy Director-General, who had met her at a party. (Glass and a colleague were later responsible for introducing Michael Hanley to MI5 who became Director-General in 1972.) I took the less-

er secretarial route. All the government offices requiring suitable, discreet secretaries went head-bunting to the secretarial colleges. I remember being offered the Ministry of Information at £2 10s a week or the War Office at £3. Avarice won out and so it was that we met again in the labyrinthine walkways of Wornswood Scrubs prison, part of which had been requisitioned by M15. Here we were ogled by the prisoners, but the only danger was the falling glass from the glazed ceiling of the three-storey main corridor during air raids, or finding some shifty man looking up your skirt as you climbed the open metal-tread stairs. Ann Glass was soon transferred with a large section of the office to more elegant quarters at Blenheim Palace. Unlike most of the female staff, who were accommodated in makeshift dormitories at Kehle College, she installed herself at the Mitre in Oxford, until her social contacts led to the Duchess of Mari-borough's insisting that she live in the private part of the palace as the duchess considered it quite unsuitable for her to live

Order to the said to the

unchaperoned in a hotel. Before long the remainder of MI5 moved to a newly acquired building in St James's Street, with no regrets at leaving the musty cells that bad acted as scratch offices. After some time Glass returned to the London base. It was then that, with her



fluent Italian, she landed a marvellous "job" which made me (the aspiring film director) green with envy. She was given eave, at twice ber salary, to be "secretary" (unofficial "watcher" 1 to Filippo del Giudice, the Italian film director who was acting as art director on the film Noël Coward was making at Denham, In Which We Serve. Coward had insisted that del Giudice be released from internment as an enemy alien for this job. Glass did so well that before long she was writing. scripts and, as she thought, on her way to a career in filmmaking. It was not to be, for the Italian was "cleared" and no longer needed a watcher.

At the end of the war not many of the temporary female staff opted to stay on at the War Office but Glass was obviously officer material and did so. spending much time abroad. Meanwhile, ber memorably sexy, deep bass voice grew ever buskier, making Marlene Dietrich sound like a near-soprano.

Ann Elwell was highly intelligent but she was also funny and witty, an expert retailer of gossip, fundamentally kind, equally adept at dressmaking or making jam and demonstrahly a good wife and mother. I don't know anyone who combines all these qualities, or indeed anyone remotely like her.

Marie-Jaqueline Lancaster

Ann Catherine Glass, intelligence officer: born London 16 June 1922; married 1950 Charles Elwell (two sons, two daughters); died London 12 January 1996.

Professor Sir Harold Bailey

I think the origin of that Cossack-like costume of Professor Sir Harold Bailey's was slightly more romantic than described by Alan Rush Jobituary. 12 January]. writes Professor Jake M. Hancock. Bailey had long had a special

interest in the Ossetic languages, possibly because of their similarity to some Persian languages. During the Second World War there was a prisoner who had deserted from the Red Army to the Germans and had then been captured by the

British, and it was thought that he might be able to give useful information if only somebody could understand him. That somebody was Bailey, because the prisoner came from one of

the Osset republics. When Bailey attended the

celebrations of Rustaveli "Georgian was one of my hohbies when f was a youngster"), he took the opportunity to visit Ossetla. There was no university there but he introduced himself to the principal of the local equivalent of a

Hochschule. They accepted his offer to lecture on a Western view of Osset literature, delivered in the local variety of

ese lecturing on Welsh literature costume.

cal costume to be made for him. When the Fellows of Queens' College commissioned a portrait of him. it was Bailey's His astonished audience, for own request that he be porit must have heen like a Japan- trayed wearing his Osset

Redesigned urn did not breach court order

Sharp; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Rose, Sir John Balcombe):

designs of a range of such not identical to it. The Court of Appeal by a

in the defendant's brochure. The products concerned were made of reconstituted tographs showing the whole

LAW REPORT

26 January 1996

stone, a cement-based composition which can be moulded but looks, when set, like real stone. Architectural and garden ornaments can thus be made by a casting process at much lower cost than by carving solid stone. The plaintiffs claimed to be the exclusive licensee of

copyrights subsisting in the

products. The defendant admitted all the alleged breaches of the undertaking save one. This concerned a product called the Palace Urn, his original version of which bad infringed the plaintiffs' State Vase design. After the consent order, the defendant started to manufacture

what the judge called the new Palace Urn. To the uninformed eye, the new urn seemed virtually identical to the old. But the judge accepted the defendant's evidence that, after the consent order, he had looked through old Sotheby's catalogues of 19thcentury antique garden furniture and had found a metal urn, from a scaled-up drawing of which he had created a new mould. He produced pho-

process, which be said took 200 hours.

It was not disputed that the defendant was entitled to manufacture an urn within the general category of the Palace Urn, which was a recognisable and common garden ornament, featuring a campanulashaped bowl with a curved decorated rim, a central frieze. handles on each side, a lozenged base to the bowl and fluted supports. No one or combination of these features

tures of the plaintiffs' version. The question, which the judge answered in the affirmative, was whether the de-fendant had gone further and produced a design which comoined so many of the plaintiffs' features that it could be said to be in substance the same

could be said to be unique fea-

design. Michael Hicks (Warren & Allen, Nottingham) for the defendant; lain Purvis (Shoosmiths & Harrison, Northampton) for the plaintiffs.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that the key words of the undertaking were "of the same design as". They were not, as they could bave been, "of sub-

"of similar design." The parties had clearly chosen their words

carefully. The new Palace Urn was not the same as the old Palace Urn, and consequently was not of the same design. This accorded with what appeared to be the intention of the parties as expressed in the order. The undertaking was to stop the defendant producing and selling those particular articles advertised in his brochure, which were produced from existing moulds.

It was irrelevant that the defendant had adopted features which resembled but were not identical to the old Palace Urn. such as the egg-and-dart round the rim, rather than smaller medallions; a similar frieze motif and similar handles. The number of eggs and darts was not the same and the top was

beaded and not plain. The judge adopted the wrong test in asking himself whether the ordinary man in the street would differentiate between them. This was not a passing off action or infringement of a registered design. If the plaintiffs had wished to extend the scope of the under-

taking they could have done so. Paul Magrath. Barrister

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

NICHOLS: Kenneth John Heastey. On 24 January, peocefully at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. Beloved husband of Pumela and dearly loved lather, grandfather and friend. Private family funeral. Thanksgiving service to be announced later

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DUFF: A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mary Geraldine Duff will be held at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Saturday 13 April at 11.30am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS Amouncements for Gazette Biki Hs. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Meanoriat services, Wedding amiversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, t Canada Square, Canary Whari, London El 4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a lin (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette so incements (notices, functions, Forth coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or lated) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Prince of Wales, President, the Prince Trust, opens the new Venture Centre, Cromford Derbyshore and as President, Basileou in the Committy, views the project undertaken by the Arkwright Seciety at Cosmford Mill.

Changing of the Guard Changing in this country Mounted Re-mounts the Queen's Lite Guard at Horse (1) are, 7 Company Coldsweam Guards into Queen's Quard, at Bucklaugham Bullete, 11 hand provided by the Secto Guards. Birthdays

Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, 71: Mr Timothy Clifford, Director, National Galleries of Scot-land, 50; Mr Martin Dunn, Editor-

Births: Claude Adrien Helvettus. philosopher and encyclopaedist. 1715; Ugo (Niccolo) Foscolo, poet. 1778: Douglas MacArthur, general. 1945. Deaths: Edward Jenner, physician, discoverer of vaccination, 1823; Charles George Gordon, general, killed at Khartoum 1885; Edward G. Robinson (Emmanuel Goldenberg). actor, 1973: Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, statesman, 1979. On this day: Sydney, Australia, was founded by Governor Arthur Phillip, 1788; Hong

Mr Ronald Allison, journalist and broadcaster, 64; Mr Michael Bentine,

humorist and writer, 74; Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi, former in-chief, the New York Daily News, 41: Mr Jules Feiffer, playwright and cartoonist, 67; Mr Stephane Grap-pelli, jazz violinist, 88; Mr Christooher Hampton, playwright, 50; Mr Kim Hughes, cricketer, 42; The Right Rev David Jenkins, former Bishop of Durham, 71; Miss Eartha Kitt, singer, 68; Mr Simon Langdale, ormer Headmaster, Shrewsbury School, 59; Miss Joan Leslie, actress, 71; Mr Paul Newman, actor, 71: Miss Veronica Owen, former Headmistress, Malvern Girls' College, 71; Mr Christopher Price, Principal Ementus, Leeds Metropolitan Umversity, 64; Mr Andrew Ridgeley, singer, 33; Mr Anthony Solomons, chairman, Singer and Friedlander, 66; Sir Charles Tidbury, former chairman, Whithread and Co, 70; Mr Nigel Walmsley, chairman, Carlion UK Television, 54.

Anniversaries

t880; Jacqueline du Pré, cellist,

Kong became a British sovereign territory, 1841: the Rugby Union was founded, 1871; the first official Boy Scout troop—the First Glasgow—was

official language of India, 1965. To-day is Australia Day, Republic Day, India and the Feast Day of St Alberic, St Conan of Man, St Eystein, St Mar-garet of Hungary, St Paula, St Thorteith or Thorteith of Barking Thordgith or Theorigitha of Barking, St Timothy and St Titus. Lectures National Gallery: Grant Rogers,

formed, 1908: Hindi was made the

"Looking Forwards (iv): Cezanne, The Painter's Father, Louis-Auguste Cezanne", tpm. Tate Gallery: Lubaina Himid, "Be-tween the Two my Heart is Balanced", tpm. Gresham College, Barnard's fun Hall, London ECI: Professor Heather Couper, "Quasars and Ex-ploding Galaxies", 1pm.

Luncheons

British Council Sir John Hanson, Director-General, British Council, hosted a luncheon yesterday at the British Council. London SWI, in bonour of Professor S.S. Saidkasimov, Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Uzbekistan.

Receptions

HM Government Mrs Gillian Shepherd MP, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, welcomed the guests at a reception held yesterday evening at Lancaster House, London SWI, in honour of the US Fulbright students, scholars and fellows in Britain. Mr William J. Crowe Jnr, US Ambas-

Dinners HMS Victory Admiral Sir Michael Bowce, Second

Naval Home Command hosted a dinner yesterday evening on board the flagship HMS Victory, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Among those present were the Right Rev Francis Walmsley, Bishop of the Forces, and Judge John Sessions, Judge Advocate of the Fleet. Institute of Physics Sir Arnold Wolfendale, President, In-

Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief

stitute of Physics, presided at the Institute's Annual Awards Dinner held vesterday evening at the Savov Ho-lel, London W1. Lord Flowers was

the principal guest and speaker.

Pattenmakers' Company The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Pattenmakers' Company, attended the Annual Livery Banquet of the Company held yesterday evening at the Mansion House, London EC4. The Duke presented the Pattenmakers' Company's Young Manager Development Awards for 1996 to Mr R.J. Newcombe and Miss S.L. White. Mr A.D. Miller, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chalstrey, and the Lady Mayoress. Mrs Chalstrey, were also present.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be

held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Subbath begins in London at 4.24pm. United Synagogues: 017t-387 4300. omico Synagogues: 01/1-387 4300. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4711 Semida and Progressive ish and Portuguese Jews Con gregation: 0171-289 2573. New London ue (Masorti): 0t7t-328 t026.

An undertaking to the court, not to make and sell a product "of the same design" as that which had infringed someone else's copyright, was not breached by the design and production of a new product which, though strikingly similar to the infringing design, was

majority (Sir John Balcombe dissenting) allowed an appeal by the defendant, David Sharp, trading as the David Sharp Studios, against the decision of Sir John Vinelott as a High Court judge, on 5 December 1994, that he had breached an undertaking, recorded in a consent order made by Mr Justice Millett on 21 March 1994, in settlement of an action by the plaintiffs, Haddonstone Ltd, for infringement of copyright. The undertaking was not to "manufacture, advertise, sell, offer or expose for sale or distribute any article of reconstructed stone of the same dcsign" as certain ones illustrated

Virtuous promoter of good works or Washington's Lady Macbeth, engaged in a cover-up Nixon would have been proud of? As Rupert Cornwell reports, Hillary Clinton's evidence to a grand jury today on the Whitewater affair will only add to the confusion about her

Lie As Bill Clinton was on Tuesday, he departed the text to eulogise his wife. the test to eslogise his wife.

The rival attraction of the state of the rival attraction of the state of the latest missachence. This eyes missy his his chanched, the President praised a wonderful wife, a magnificent mother, and a prest First Lady. Hillary Clinton's expression did not change, not a trace of a tear, not even a not of sciencywholes. ment, just a steely gaze. Yes, if seemed to say, this lady is tength, she can take care of herself.

Today she will seed to do exactly that. Never before his the wife of

a sitting president been simumoned a siting president been summoned before a grand jury. The experience is unnerving, even for a formidable lawyer such as Mrs. Chinop. A grand jury thousand decide whether charges should be brought Hillsing that he independent. Whitewater change that the independent. Whitewater counsel. Kenneth State in not considering indicting her-for now in least. State has been investigating the White-water affair, in which the Clintons are alleged to have been involved in a property transaction in part-nership with the owner of a bank

that later collapsed. She will have to respond, about, without her lawyer, to questions from Start and the jury. But the hearing is sterre, it's a crime even to approach a grand juror.

Exactly what Mrs Clinton may

have done wrong is unclear. Maybe, as she insists she is gully of nothing. But in the mist of loggy mirrors that is scarcely the point. What is more interesting is that a woman so beaming with political savy line made such a hash of handling the unifer. That stambolic tectual is involved. record cultinionized in the latest abstraity, when documents sought by investigators for two years.

How has a woman so brimming

with intelligence made such a hasb of the affair?

inent of the first. In the case the large of 1993 was her appearable was mannered as a manner of 1993 to now emerges, the large mannered as a manner of 1993 to now emerges, the large mannered as the sampling that it

say they were victims of a vendelta

by the Climons.

That 23 May, Hillery strengt, media camenisation, permett on the critical file. New York Threes using axise in an outfit of Yuginal white.

Saint Hillery, the article was beatinged. More retacher than politician, the First Lady seem to earth was swit. Itse groups white those counsel, committed sucrite, in part from depression at the travel office debacle and the deep came common controlled and the deep came common strength. travel office debacle and the deep-ening controversy over Whitewater. Foster had been a fellow partner at the Rose law firm in Little Rock, and at the White House keeper of Hillary's private legal affairs facturing. Ms Cluston's accusers mais, those papers so mysteriously rediscovered this mouth). Some say they had been lowers. Asked by ABC's Barbara Whiteirs if that were so. Mrs Cluston did not

off Life SITAIT

Asked by ABC's Barbara Various a fitthat were so. Mrs Climton did not answer directly—only heightening the belief that the key to the rule of the belief that the key to the rule of the belief that the key to the rule of the belief that the key to the rule of the belief that the key to the rule of the belief that the key to the rule of the belief that the key to the rule of the rule of the point of the white of the wind the belief that the key to the rule of the rul specialities. Saint or Singer's specialities as attitle intures by a stocy, wondering which was the real Hillary the uncless promoter of women's and children's causes who wrote a book on motherhood and children's on Washington's own Lady Macbeth' is site a virtuous doer of good works, a First Lady with the courage to go to Paking and condenin China. For human rights almost or the presely haby boomet who used her copiacts to make at insider a tilling in earlier structure. Finding? The idealinate young Congressional staffar who numbed Name were Masengale or a dillair engaged in a Namenas in the year at Tale Lays book the is antiferrially at least the reasonant's equal in Aricansas, the war at restrict and the slave for the manual word more to first during the General Target and the partners and critical and the slave for the sampang.

In the White House she has the house she raise of the sampang.

In the White House she has recommended by the commendation below the sampang.

In the White House she has recommended by the commendation of the partners of the commendation of the partners of the commendation of the partners of the sampang.

In the White House she has recommended by the commendation of the partners of the commendation of the partners of the sampang.

In the White House she has recommended by the commendation of the partners of the sampang of the commendation of the partners of the sampang of the commendation of the partners of the sampang.

In the White House she has recommended by the commendation of the partners of the sampang of the commendation of the partners of the sampang of the sampang of the partners of the sampang of the partners of the sampang of the sampang of the partners of the sampang of the sampang of the sampang of the partners of the partners of the partners of the sampang of the sampang of the partners of the p

telephone shopping.

working days.

FREE

you can buy Celiphones Direct.

WITH NO TARIFF INCREASES GUARANTEED FOR LIFE

Preside Rates Calle | 50p per usin (42.5p + YAT)

Off Posts Carles 20p per min (17p+VAT)

Peak times 3.00-19.00 Mon to Fri. Mandatory itemised biflings charged at \$1.77 inc VAT per month. Line rental (debited monthly in advance) and airtene charges will be debited to your nommated credit/charge or Delta card. Calls charged in units of 30 seconds after the first minute.

Monthly Restal £15 (£12.77+YAT)

ving to bring about the shaneful (though perfectly legal) suching of the White House travel office staff. It was alleged they had mis-managed funds, their defenders

substance after the Second World War, But the First strong views on women's rights, for instance. Nine-

anted to be a Supreme Court judge but her desire to ive in the White House

Roosevelt (1884 - 1962) who funduring her hus-

equality for women became more acceptable in the wake of their enfranchisement in 1920 First Ladies premoted the role of women. Eleanor amonomously. She shocked g blacks and helped to draft 5 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights, Yet like Hillary Clinton she endured

JFK's funeral enhanced her shipping magnute in 1968 Despite holding public

All the president's ladies

The term "First Lady" was coined by the media around the time that Jackie Remody reigned in the has been shaped by the 39 women who have occupied it since 1789. It became publicly acknowledged as a role of influence was probably Abi-gail Adams, wife of the sec-onal president. John Adams, Her private letters detail her instance, prayed her husband

drave him into politics.

dency from 1933 to 1945. As

seemdal, and was hounded by her political work; he merely

Lyndon built a substantial fortune from hwestments in broadcasting, Renicakably

was Reagan's Transporta Secretary and Bush's Lab

her law exams. Sabina Forbes, wife of millionaire publisher Steve Forbes, is an

years and has five daug She manages the family fam

Tiffanie Darke



Kill me again, please

I'd thought that Judge Argyle, he of the Oz Trial and many subsequent controversies, had lost the power to shock. But a letter from His Honour to his local paper, The Newark Advertiser, proves me wrong.

Reminiscing about his late

father, a distinguished solicitor, he mentions. en passant, that the old boy, who had a fear of being buried alive in his coffin, ordered his four sons to plunge a long, sharp knife into his dead body.

He says the recent case of the woman found alive in a hospital mortuary reminded him of his father's death in



Generation Why

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

THAT WE'VE BEEN TRYWG TO

COME UP WITH A GOOD IDEA TO SELL EUROPE TO

A RELUCTANT PUBLIC.

1965. "He served through both world wars seeing a lot of action. A man out easily alarmed or frightened, he had a horror, based on his experi-ence, of being buried alive. [He witnessed] the reopening of a coffin to reveal the torn nails and hloodstained fingers and the scratch marks on the wood inside; the fate of soldiers in trenches, overwhelmed by an avalanche of earth caused by heavy gunfire; the fate of Royal Navy and merchant navy crews in ships or submarines sent to

the bottom. order his four sons, of whom I was the eldest, to plunge a long, sharp knife into his dead

A request no dutiful son with a flourishing career at the Old Bailey could ignure. But, sadly for Judge Argyle, he was unable to follow his father's last wishes. The undertaker had nailed down the lid of the

Dark days

Good to see that the West End will soon be graced by two famous titles. Willis Hall's 1959 army-based play The Long And The Short And The Tall has just opened at the Brixton Shaw

ROLF

ROLL

AND WE'VE

SHOW FOR IT!

Theatre, and is to transfer to the West End. And Simon Callow is directing a new musical version of the French classic film Les Enfants Du Paradis at the Royal Shakespeare Company next week. The film ran for a dazzling three hours 40 minutes. Callow's expensive production is clocking up fourand-a-half hours at the first previews. One exhausted theatre-goer tells me that emerging into the dark, silent streets around the Barbican a few minutes before midnight, with the last train chugging away in the distance, was in itself a piece of Theatre of

current fascination with a certain seven words - namely



status of Mrs Howard's hus-band) "for security reasons". Neither did the ladies recognise each other. This reflects credit "All these caused him to Polite knock no both of them. Mrs Howard clearly doesn't bother to read It strikes me that the media's Hello! and Viscountess Linley

doesn't go to government sherry parties. "My wife would never be rude," commented Viscount Linley afterwards. So how then those allegedly said by the Princess of Wales to Tiggy do we think the conversation

Hair equality

went? No doubt, "So sorry, that you crashed into me" from

Mrs Howard and "So sorry to be such a nuisance" from Vis-

countess Linley.

YES WE

Legge-Bourke - is misguided.

What I would much rather

know, if we're talking about Royal off-the-cuff remarks, is what Viscountess Linley,

Princess Margaret's daughter-

in-law said to Sandra Howard,

the Home Secretary's wife

when she crashed her Range

Rover into Mrs Howard's Ford Scorpin the other day during a

It is quite clear from a wit-

ness's statement that cross words were exchanged. (Appar-

ently Viscountess Linley even

refused to issue Mrs Howard

with her home address and

surname (laughably, given the

West End shopping trip.

New Labour, old Labour, they're all bald to me. At the Spitting Image's production studios the 22-year-old puppet co-ordinator on the programme was



One of those politicians

asked to fetch the puppet of Arthur Scargill from the store-house. "I don't know what Arthur Scargill looks like," the fortunate young woman told producer Giles Pilbrow. "You can't miss him," retorted Pilbrow. "He's an old, balding left-wing Labour politician with a grubby grey suit - he's in the

third-floor puppet room." The puppet co-ordinator lis-tened carefully. Alas, to no avail. When she returned she was carrying ... Neil Kinnock.

Ladies who lamb

No comment: Headline from a Department of Health press release: "Advice To Pregnant Women During Lambing."

A STORY-

MOUNTAIN.

BOARD

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND Your phone is covered by our 14 days Eagle Eye



SONY

MODEL CM-R111K.



Exclusive Sony Sale Offer.

 9 speed dial memories
 60 mins talk-time • 14 hrs standbytime • Featherweight only 185g (61/2 oz) ◆ Complete with charges and standard battery



*£10 Cashback will be credited to your Gelphones Direct account.

SONY CM-R111K

PRICE £19.99

INC.VAT



Cellphones

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

<u>FREEPHONE 0500 000 888</u>

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS SAM TO SPM WEEKENDS SAM TO SPM PLEASE HAVE YOUR GREENT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HARDY WHEN TOO CALL

AND GROVE REF 2009. (CORRY ME ARE BUABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CLROS) Offer subject to status and a classifierd arrithmic contract for each planne with Celebrate: Deem Ethics Richmond Road Richmond

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-298 2435/0171-345 2435

EDITOR: Charles Wilson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes ASSISTANT ELLITOR: CHARLES SIMON Keiner - SATURDAY EDITOR: Communication Section TWO EDITOR: Simon Keiner - SATURDAY EDITOR: David Robson EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams - NIGRT EDITOR: Richard Holledge

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC, BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Liam Healy (Chairman) - Lord Borrie - Ben Bradlee - Juan Luis Cebrián - Brenden Hopkins David Montgomery Javier Diez de Polanco - Cornel Riklin - Andreas Whittam Smith ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Reed

Leaving peace in the lurch

Forty-eight hours ago, the political deadlock in Northern Ireland was about to to be broken. Senator George Mitchell's report outlined six commitments that would push Sinn Fein irrevocably into non-violent politics, without the IRA immediately handing over its arms. The report was widely greeted as a diplomatic masterpiece, requiring everyone to compromise a little, but in return sharing out the fig leaves for everyone to hide behind. It seemed the controversy over when the paramilitaries should hand in their arms, which has dogged the peace process for months, had been resolved. All-party talks at last tooked possible. The tension that had built up over 17 months of peace, but with little progress to a lasting settlement, was set to ease.

Sadly, that is not how it has turned out. Instead, the British and Irish governments are at loggerheads. The ugly nationalist-Unionist divide - with Duhlin on one side squaring up to London on the other - has re-emerged after a decade of Anglo-Irish co-operation. No one can be sure how the hardliners within the IRA will

respond. The problem is that out of the blue on Wednesday John Major (to the surprise even of his counterpart in Duhlin) made the creation of an elected Northern Ireland assembly the centrepiece of his response to Mitchell. That sounds harmless enough, but three previous attempts to create such assemblies either turned into vehicles for Unionist domination or collapsed in sectarian hitterness. As Mr Major made his announcement, faith in him among nationalists north and south of the Irish border evaporated. The Prime Minister may feel that nationalists have good faith.

over-reacted but he has to prove their sus-

picions wrong.

The Prime Minister may have found a clever and as yet unthought of way of getting talks going, if slightly later than expected. By dropping the Government's pre-condition that arms should be decommissioned before talks can start, he has opened the door to Sinn Fein. By accepting the Unionists' proposal for an elected body, he has made it impossible for them to stay away from all-party talks, even if these must now be delayed until the sum-

mer to allow time for elections.

As yet the role of the proposed assembly is unclear. Dublin might come round to the idea if the elections were simply a way to select a group of negotiators rather than - as the Umonists would like - an oldstyle assembly dominated by them which

could take votes on issues of policy.
But as long as the Prime Minister fails to make his intentions clear, Dublin will suspect the worst. The Irish government fears that Britain has suddenly lurched away from seeing the Anglo-Irish relationship as the rock upon which a politi-cal settlement will be built. Many nationalists think that Mr Major, mindful of his tiny Commons majority, is in the pocket of David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader. They suspect that British initiatives are now designed to delay rather than enable political progress so that Mr Major

can cling to power. This depressing conclusion may well he mistaken given Mr Major's commitment to peace in Northern Ireland. But the Prime Minister now has a great deal to do to convince a large slice of increasingly sceptical opinion that he is still acting in

Teachers' pay is the first lesson

school for her son we have overlooked some fundamental questions. Children's education is in trouble long before they reach the gates of the local comprehensive. That is the only conclusion that can be drawn from the first test results for 11year-olds published yesterday. Half of England's 11-year-olds are failing the Government's tests for numeracy and literacy, which, for instance, include spelling

words such as "question" and "gently". We should be wary of reading too much into these results. Schools will become better at preparing children for the tests. Even wilhout significant changes in the quality of education, the test results may improve considerably over time.

Despite that caveat, the evidence overall is not good. Government inspectors have long identified the education of seven to II-year-olds as the weak link in the school system. Take just one telling comparison: research by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) shows that English children are up to two years behind their Swiss counterparts in maths in spite of spending 18 months longer at school.

The most serious problems lie in the nature and content of teaching. An overloaded national curriculum - as the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, yesterday admitted - leaves insufficient time for teaching basic skills. She has promised to pare it back. But teaching

Yesterday I brought you an extract from a new opera about Welsh

rugby entitled 'Trisian und Gareth'. It told the story of two boys, Tristan and

Gareth, who both taste success early

on in the Welsh Schoolboys XV. How-

ever, they react to success in very dif-

ferent ways - Tristan determines to

make rugby his career, while Gareth

thinks he will just have a good time in

the bar after the match, making friends

with everyone. Tristan goes north and

becomes a star in Rugby League, while Gareth goes to the bad and

becomes a Welsh selector ... Encour-

aged. I feel disposed to bring you another extract from this seminal

ACT TWO. Scene one takes us to a

meeting of the Welsh Rugby selectors,

who have gathered in the upstairs

room of a big pub, the Pont Talbot De

Luxe Business and Conference Arms.

The meeting is called to order by

a man called Barry Davies, who is the

Barry: All right, lads, have we all got

a pint? OK. then, down to business.

There's only one item on the agenda.

Barry: Yes. How to beat England at

Gary: Blimey, I thought we had dis-

Ceri: Only one?

cussed this before?

We've missed the point, it seems.
Having got worked up about Harriet Harman's choice of a secondary ful Continental counterparts concentrate on teaching the whole class together rather than on individualised or group learning. Their emphasis on mental arithmetic, repetition and rote learning is more successful than allowing children to discover mathematical patterns for themselves.

The other crucial factor is the quality of teachers and the way they are managed. With thousands of qualified teachers leaving the profession early every year, and a high proportion of those that stay on demoralised, it is not surprising that children are not acquiring basic skills.

Perhaps the Department for Education should take a little advice from Adair Turner, the director-general of the CBI, who yesterday stressed that businesses had to invest in staff and pay them well. Successful schools, just like successful businesses, need a culture that encourages and rewards performance. The only way to turn teaching into the high status, well-respected profession that schoolchildren and parents need is to increase the rewards for good teachers and to remove those who prove unable to do the job.

Extra cash for junior schools means something else will have to give - possihly higher education, which could be partly funded through a graduate tax. If at the end of this week the only thing that everyone is agreed upon is that we should improve the quality of education for all our children, then rewarding good teachers well is the probably the best place to start.

MILES KINGTON

Barry: We discuss this every time. It is hosiness held over. It is a recurring

item. It is perennial agenda. It is a

semi-permanent sore in the Welsh

psyche. It is a chronic cross we all have

Ceri: Come off it, Barry! No need for

the old Welsh gift of the gab here! The

English may be impressed by it, but

it cuts no ice in the valleys. Barry: All right, fair enough. But any

ideas on how to beat England? Or

anyone, come to that? Just to refresh

your memory, here are some methods

we have tried in the past. We tried

playing Paul Thorburn and Rupert

Gary: What was the point of that?

Barry. Well, the idea was that if we

played people with such obviously

English names as Thorburn and

Moon, the English would challenge

us to prove that they had any Welsh

blood, and be totally embarrassed by

Moon ..

From the heart of the scrum, an aria



Why marry an English schoolgirl? She probably can't even read or write!'

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Private provision not needed to defuse the pensions 'time bomb' | Sex, Sugar and

From Professor Peter Townsend Sir. The scaremongering of the Anson Report about a pensions time-bornh" ("Call for action on pensions 'time bomb' ", 24 Jan-uary) must be dismissed. The Government Actuary and independent researchers have demonstrated that henceforth Britain will experience a slower rate of increase in the elderly population than all other members of the EU except Portugal.

The Department of Social Security has had to revise sub-stantially downwards its estimates of rising costs issued only two years ago. The Government Actuary shows that after the introduction of the 1995 Pensions Act, there will need to be, on present assumptions, virtually no increase in existing rates of contribution to national msurance.

What matters in planning a strategy more than the ageing of the population is the premature retirement of people of active employment age, the problem of getting more young people into hecause of the exigencies of work, and the poor opportunities for women to get secure employ-

Return to hell?

From The Rev Derek Matten

Sir. Let the Church decide

whether there is a hell or not the

Any railway buff knows that, to reach the Kingdom of

Heaven (Himmelreich station).

one must take the Hell Valley

Railway (Höllentalbahn) from

Freiburg in Breisgau in south-

I should know: I lived and

worked for 12 years beyond both Heaven and bell, in Hinterzarten

in the Black Forest. One might

have had to go through hell to get

there, but it was a beavenly place

west Germany.

Yours faithfully.

DEREK MATTEN

Ringmore, Devon 22 January

finding that they were indeed

Barry: No. In fact, the English

adopted the idea themselves and

started picking players with Welsh names, like Dewi Morris.

Gary: And Irish names, like Kieran

Barry: Right. So, anyone got any ideas

Cometh the hour, Come th the man,

Ceri: Only the same one as usual.

(All selectors join in the chorus.)

O come back to help us,

Don't walk - we'll hire

If it's money you want

But come back, come.

- You're the only one

For God's sake come back,

Who can possibly save us!!

(They stop singing and all listen.

If anyone can save us.

Gary: Did it work?

for saving Wales?

Jonathan can!

We beg of you

Jonathan Davies,

Come back, pleasel

On bended knees!

Jonathan Davies!

A limo from Avis!

Just name a sum,

All in used fivers,

Jonathan Davies

There is no answer.)

From Mr J. Gwyn Griffiths

Sir: I was glad to note that sev-

eral of your contributors have 23 January

question is, how to get there?

ment at reasonable rates of pay. It is government cuts in the basic retirement pension and in the additional state earnings retirement pensions scheme which have brought impoverishment to pensioners and prospective pensioners alike and must be stopped. Except for top executives British levels of pension are already bottom of the European heap.

Yet Sir John Anson's committee produce recommendations that will worsen the already deteriorating situation of many elderly and prospective elderly. The committee was sponsored by the National Association of Pension Funds. That is a vested interest. Not surprisingly, it proposes to expand "funding" at the expense of pay-as-you-go (PAYG) state schemes. This will only widen the gap

already deepening between prosperous and poor pensioners. and it will increase the vulnerahility of prosperous younger ups to catastrophic collap in their own living standards redundancy, unemployment, sickness, disability, bereavement

welcomed the Church of Eng-

land's revised views of heil. Its

report refers to "appalling the-

ologies which made God into a

trenchant example is given by

Augustine of Hippo, anthor of

The City of God. He was able to

recognise that torment in a fiery

hell could not last for ever, since

it was biologically impossible. In his City of God (21. 9. 47-8) he

argued that the problem could he

solved, since the ability of bodies

to endure this torment for ever is

"a miracle of the most omnipo-

subtle sadism which is ascribed to God himself.

Here is a piece of exquisitely

This is no empty tirade. A

sadistic monster".

tent Creator".

Yours faithfully

J. GWYN GRIFFITHS

University of Wales

Barry: Well, it was worth trying.

beer money.

he Welsh?

minute drop goal.

we think of it before?

them has ever worked.

Gareth: If I may make a suggestion.

Barry: Gareth! What a surprise!

You've never spoken before. We

thought you were just here for the

Gareth: Well, yes, I am, basically, but

I just wondered if you had thought of

Barry: The star of Rugby League? Is

Gareth: Oh, yes - he's an old mate of

mine. I just thought it might be nice

if he was drafted into the side, played

a hlinder, shimmied through for two

or three tries and then scored the win-

ning points at Twickenham with o last-

Barry: What a great idea. Why didn't

Alun: We've had lots of great ideas

before, Barry. It's just that none of

Barry: Well, it's our last chance.

Don't forget that if we come bottom

again, we could be replaced in the

(They all sink into total gloom. The

ghost of JPR Williams passes by out-

And so on, and so on. Incidentally, this

would be a VERY cheap upera to put

on, so if Jeremy Isaacs wants to get in

touch, he knows where to find me.

side the window, openly weeping.)

home championships by Italy.

icking Tristan Jones ...

Department of Classics

ing their working lives. PAYG makes economic sense

as well as social sense for the mass of the population. Higher national insurance contributions can boost national savings. They can provide collective benefits as a form of rights to assist the transition to work. Risks can be pooled at small administrative cost. Instead of paying through the nose for funded schemes, with very high administrative costs and profits, poor account-ability, greater likelihood of multinational takeover and relatively poor coverage for unpre-dictable adversities, individuals can share the costs and henefits of a national scheme, and come to see they have a stake in society and not just themselves. That is eminently affordable, and it is tragic that the Anson Committee failed to address the evidence.

Yours etc. PETER TOWNSEND Social Policy) University of Bristol

ability of The Giaour.

Unromantic Jane

From Mr Avner Offer Sir, Hamish McRae writes ("Now we can see how old age looks", 24 January):

I do not think we trust governments sufficiently to give them more of our money.

I agree, But do we trust private pension providers any more than the Government? The recent records of some of them are just

Dependence on the private sector is not the same as selfreliance. We do not have sufficient information to select a private provider. Once we make our choice, we become its captives. And if government is to guarantee our private pensions, then we are in the hands of government once again, and private providers have even greater licence to take liberties with our money.

The problem of old age provi-sion is even more difficult than it Yours sincerely. Reader in Recent Social and Economic History Nuffield College

underage girls

From Mr Peter Luff. MP Sir. I was disappointed to read. Joanne Elvin's article "Some advice on sex and hunks7 (24 January). She claims that her magazine, Sugar, by offering practical sexual advice to young girls such as Sarah Cook, now illegally married to a Turk, can help make them more comforted and reassured.

In fact it is precisely magazines such as Sugar, by persuading girls that they are only really fulfilled human beings if they are sexually active at a young age, which con-tribute to tragedies such as that of Sarah.

On the face of it, Ms Elvin's argument may look plausible. but it is misleading. While no one is arguing for ignorance, most people feel girls of 12 and 13 should not be taught the details of masturbation and oral sex. and that they should not be encourea to maa persona through promiscuity.

If anyone is in any doubt, I invite them to go out and buy the February edition of Sugar and read it for themselves. Their doubts will be quickly dispelled. Yours faithfully, PETER LUFF

MP for Worcester (Con) House of Commons London, SW1 24 January

From Mrs Valerie Riches Sir. There has been an understandable shock-and-horror reaction about the "marriage" of a 13year-old girl to an 18-year-old young man, an arrangement apparently approved by her parents. The authorities consider the matter to be so serious that the girl is deemed to be in need of the care and protection of the

In this country, the Government has a policy of providing "protection" to girls under the age of consent (16) in the form of free condoms, the Pill and post-coital contraception, in many cases behind the backs of their parents. In the year 1993-94, the number of under 16-year-old attenders at family planning clinics amounted to 37,000, an increase of 37 per cent over the previous year. These girls are subjects of unlawful sexual intercourse and are, arguably, in less stable relationships than the 13-year-old girl in question. To be consistent, there should be outrage about their plight - hut not a whisper of concern about them. Yours sincerely.

VALERIE RICHES Director Family and Youth Concern Oxford 25 January

Bank on it ...

CHRISTINE KENYON JONES

ters literary. Yours faithfully,

London, SW4

23 January

rather shallow sentimentality, which leads him to form an attach-

From Mr Alwyn James Sir: On the first page of your round-up of Britain's private banks last week, you claimed that Courts was the oldest British bank. On the second page, you gave its founder date as 1692 and

that of Hoare & Co as 1672. In fact, neither bank is Britain's oldest. Although it is difficult to determine when a jeweller who did a bit of hanking on the side became a banker who did a bit of jewellery on the side, most observers agree that Child & Co, with business records dating back to 1585, was providing banking services decades before the other two. Yours faithfully. ALWYN JAMES Head of Internal Communications

The Royal Bank of Scotland London, EC1 23 January

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: tetters@ independent co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Millennial options

From Ms Christine Kenyon Jones Sir: Rhoda Koenig claims (Another View: "Why puritan America just loves Jane Austen", Sir: Peter Price (letter, 23 January) proposes that Greenwich is the "only place where the whole world could celebrate the millen-23 January) that Austen's dialogue is "free of allusions to such arcana nium", because it lies on the 0 as the poetry of Byron". In fact, degree meridian. I seem lo Anne Elliot and Captain Benwick remember from Graham Swift's Waterland that another town lies discuss Byron's and Walter Scott's on the same line. Why not forget poetry in Persuasion, lightly satirising Byron's orientalism as they both Birmingham and Greenpuzzle over the unpronouncewich and hold the exhibition in Cleethorpes instead? As far as I am aware. Scott's Yours faithfully, and Byron's is the only English WILLIAM BARRAS "Romantic" poetry to be men-tioned in the novels. Austen pre-Edinburgh

24 January

Hereford

ferred the older generations, par-ticularly William Cowper, and Benwick's partiality for Scott and From Mr David Kinsey Sir. As the millennium is a cele Byron is used to indicate his bration of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, it seems a touch bizarre to want to build ment to Louisa Musgrove while new mosques and temples. What he is still apparently in deep mourning for his previous fiancee. Which all goes to show the acuteness of Austen's social possible interest can atheists and people of non-Christian faiths have in these celebrations. Yours sincerely, vision, even when applied to mat-DAVID KINSEY

> 25 January From Mr Edgar Mehl Sir. I agree with the Prince of Wales that we should not waste our lottery millennium money on a useless party but should invest the money in a more meaningful and useful manner for the bene-

> > most needy. But why waste the money on religious buildings, especially those of minority religions, which further deter their adherents from assimilation with the bulk of this country's population? Yours truly,

fit of society, or perhaps for the

Edgar Mehl London, NW8 25 January

Forte for Latin

From The Rev Andrew McLuskev Sir: Perhaps in the light of a recent husiness takeover, some change needs to be made to an old schoolboy tag: Caesar adsum Yours faithfully,

ANDREW H. MCLUSKEY St Paul's United Reformed Church South Croydon, Surrey

23 January

Maxwell's match

From Mr A. R. Godfrey Sir: While agreeing with your assessment of Maxwell as a thief, liar and bully (leading article. 20 January), you are incorrect when you say no one confronted him. The print unions did in no uncertain fashion. I know, I was there.

One occasion, which lingers pleasantly in my memories of Holborn, was when a chapel meeting was being held by the machine minders in their lockerroom and Maxwell hammered on the door demanding entry as "the building's owner" and was told to "piss off back to Czecho-slovakia".

Yours sincerely. A. R. GODFREY Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex 20 January



Real cops never had it so good

Why would the police want to spoil their reputation with accuracy? asks David Aaronovitch

There's nothing that TV drama producers enjoy more than a little persecution. To be pressurised by the authorities, or criticised by the establishment, lends a real cachet to one's work. One hecomes a "danger-ous" or a "controversial" anist rather than a plodding journeyman in the world of mass entertainment.

So it isn't so surprising that an innocuous internal Home Office document, suggesting that the police might be a little more agile in setting their successes to the public, has been received by some producers as though they were actors in a remake of *Darkness at Noon*. "Preposterous", thundered Gub Neal of *Cracker* fame, upon hearing that a guide was to he prepared for people such as he to (as the document puts it) "ensure that such programmes are factually accurate and to give contact points for hriefing and queries". Anonymous producers apparently vowed to resist Home Office guidelines, doubtless thrilled by the prospect of being carted away to some damp compound in the Mendips, unused since the last war, with even one's mobile phone confiscated.

It's all nonsense of course, as the long-suffering Home Office press officer, Rob Smith, wearily explained lo me. In a long document about how to tell the "good news" about crime and

detection to the punters, there had been one paragraph mentioning TV drama, suggesting that it be made eas-ier for producers with queries (like what kind of food is served in police canteens, or whether chief constables keep booze in their offices) to discover

the truth from the people who know.

I see (I said), it's just facts you're interested in. Not propaganda? Perish the thought, said Roh. We just want people to know about how we're beat-ing crime, to give information about our successes and thus to "dissuade criminals" from their activities.

Er, so it is propaganda then, I said. You want to sell a line calculated both to reassure the public and to suggest to lawbreakers that crime doesn't pay. That's why you concentrate on good news stories. If the stories were bad, you wouldn't tell us, partially because (according to your logic) thieves, mug-gers and hurglars would all feel emholdened.

Rob sighed. "You're reading too much into this." he replied. "Crime is falling. End of story. We want to inform the public as to what the situation is and who is responsible for it." (Michael Howard has, of course, already told everyone that he is. But I didn't say this). "We're just talking

aboul facts".

resemblance between it and any char-acter or situation, living or dead. Con-sider the shows that litter our schedules: Morse, Wexford, Backup, Touch of Frost, and so on. When did David Jason last harass some poor bloody motorist for driving two yards in a bus lane, forcing him to produce his documents at a run-down police station, manned only by an absent-minded teenager? When have Morse's men ever mown down a pedestrian in a siren-wailing paddy-wagon on their

When have Morse's men ever mown down a pedestrian on their way to get a take-out?

way to get a take-out at the Win Wah?

ever, that's when. And it is incredible that there is any crime in this country, given the low state of criminal morale that must be occasioned by watching these shows. Last night saw the debut of Carlton's Thieftakers. Every single criminal featured in it was caught, the really bad guy was killed (il was his own fault, of And he's got a point. TV cop drama course) and all the money was recovered. Oh, and the police had lots of sex

-hut that happens in hospital dramas, 100. For Taggart 10 be accurate the programme's 100 per cent clear-up rate should be nearer the Scottish norm of just over a third.

I put this to one of our leading cop dramalists, Michael Chapman, exec-uive producer of The Bill. "I don't know what clear-up rates are," he admitted, "but I'm sure that Sun Hill's are an improvement on the real ones."
But why doesn't be give the public the truth, as Roh Smith would like? Because I wouldn't have an audience People expect our stories to he positive and conclusive. Crime, investigation and capture - and all in 24 min-utes and 30 seconds."

But doesn't this mean that all his officers are more effective, more powerful somehow than their real counterparts? Yes. When we cast an episode, or appoint a regular, we're looking for qualities of personality and charisma that ring the bell. I'm not sure that all 28,000 members of the Metropolitan Police possess these qualities." And it works for Mr Chapman - 15 million viewers luned in for last Friday's instalment of *The Bill*, watching infallible coppers collar doomed wrongdoers.

The truth is that, with the rare exception of series like Between The Lines (which focused on fictional corruption), the police get a very good ride out of TV drama, and would suffer badly if more verisimilitude were used. Like vets and country doctors (to whom TV policemen seem often to be married they are marked out for hero status.

Other professions are not so lucky A couple of years ago the NHS briefly ran its own "good news" unit, 10 counter the impression of a crumbling service as depicted in Casualty and Cardiac Arrest. It failed, as it was bound to do. Not just because its bald statistics contradicted real experience that was relatively unimportant. The problem was that the rules of

drama require conflict and context. Pitting noble nurses against uncaring bureaucrats was a theme that allowed real dramatic tension to unfold alongside the medical story. Given that many illnesses and accidents look much the same, the internal drama of the crisis-ridden institution allowed similar story lines to look different. Viewers enjoyed the stories and tuned in - the Department of Health's pres releases were hinned.

After all, if drama were accurate, bow many bare-breasted gorgeous female MPs would drape themselves over foreign secretaries? How many tarts would turn out inevitably to have hearts, or (worst of all) how many journalists would be drunken, lazy, unscrupulous and sexually incompe teni? Not many, I'd say.

A wage rise? Yes, but ...

Performance-related schemes are likely to be the key to successful pay deals, says Adair Turner

We all wish to see a more prosperous Britain, and one where all of us have a share in that prosperity. But bow is prosperity to be achieved and how is it to be shared? In the past we have tended to let our aspirations run away far ahead of reality, so that periods of economic growth and rising real incomes have led to wage/price spirals which undermine that growth.

Thus, we were once a country renowned for its strike record, double-figure wage setdements and inflation rates. We were all too familiar with the boom and bust of the UK economy. In recovery, we came to expect unemployment to fall, hut prices and wages then to rise at an accelerating pace. But we also knew that in recession. unemployment would usually rise while moderation of wage rises would come only slowly. As a nation we took one step forward and then one back.

Now, bowever, Britain's economy and workforce is more competitive, flexible and nnovative. We are experiencing stable economic growth, with a reasonable chance of inflation staying within the Government's 1 to 4 per cent band, and probably helow the 2.5 per cent target, on a sustainable basis. And there is growing evidence that the tendency towards a price/wage spiral has been broken in this most recent recovery. We have now seen unemployment falling consistently for 28 months, but with low inflation and low average earnings increases. All of this is good news and a break with the past.

However, we have also seen a significant fall in the share of national income accounted for by wages and salaries. For many people, real earnings after tax may well bave declined in the past couple of years.

Looking forward, we cannot assume, and indeed should not expect, that that trend will continue. We all want rising national income per capita, and that should mean - over the long term - rising real earnings. There is nothing unsustainable about rising real earnings provided that they enjoying the benefits of eco are earned by increases in productivity achieved by profitable companies.

But if the vision should be one of medium-term realmeome growth, the potential for an upward pay spiral should never be forgotten or underestimated. If we simply return deliver real-income growth - 10 Industry.

the environment of across-the board pay settlements, pa rounds and going rates, we wi recreate the inflationary spire and undermine the very growt

we are now achieving.
The challenge is therefore ! develop a framework for remuneration that deliverreal-income increases on aveiage and over the mediur term, but does so in a noninflationary fashion. Such framework needs to reinforc. the steps many employers hav: already been taking to linindividual pay lo individua team and company perforbetween wealth creation an. earning increases is clear.

There is evidence that the wage/ price spiral has been broken

Profit-related pay schemeand employee share-ownership schemes, already in place in a growing number of companies. are among the mechanisms h which such links can be achieved. Pay schemes that reward personal development and team contribution also have a role to play. Such approaches are mech-

anisms to give individuals sense of opportunity, of par-ticipation in a company's and in the economy's overall success, and to ensure that "flexibility" is seen as a source o: potential benefit rather than .: threat to individual security They also need to he place. within a context of effectiv. workplace communication: and of an approach to training that gives employees th. chance to flourish in a world or rapidly changing skil: demands. Together, these ar: mecbanisms to give people . "stake" in the overall econ omy, and this form of stakeholding is one that busines can certainly welcome.

For in the long term, business cannot flourish without th. broad mass of people also nomic success. But it is vital, awe achieve that economic growth, that we do not there undermine it hy reverting to inflexible and formulaic ways o. setting wages unrelated to economic affordability.

The writer is director-general c. as the economy hegins to the Confederation of Britist

62%

35%

32%

36%

51%

55%

28%

49%

14%

19%

£2.59

£8.25

At least Charles has a vision

Never mind his whingeing style; the Prince is right to criticise the Millennium Commission's plans



BRYAN APPLEYARD

D rince Charles's views on architec-I ture have always been uniformly silly, wrong-beaded and damaging. In the contemporary world, honouring the past by recreating il should be left lo Disney and McDonald's rather than demanded of Foster and Rogers. His views on other subjects, bowever, have often displayed encouraging signs of being almost right, if rather wetly expressed. And now, on the subject of the millennium, he has,

unequivocally, got it all right.

His article in his magazine, Perspectives on Architecture, is clearly inspired by his perception – shared by anybody who thinks about the subject for more than five minutes - that the Millennium Commission with its grubby sacks of lottery cash is a miserable affair, bell-bent on the usual modern British project of aiming low and missing. He delects, correctly, that in the absence of any grand, imaginative sense of what the millennium should be about, we are allowing it to be about nothing at all - ie, fun fairs, theme parks and vaguely sensitive do-gooding.

Il is, to say the least, depressing, he writes with an unfortunate lapse into his wet, tentative, whingeing style, "that there is so little one could describe as transcending the merely material in the projects which have so far been suhmitted to the Millennium

Instead, he calls for a celebration of spiritual renewal, a rejection of the murderous mihilism of the 20th century and a statement of hope. He sug-gests a number of ways of doing this, but the most interesting - and controversial - is his idea that we should finance a range of new religious Of course, churches are still huilt

in this country, but there is little interest in them, aestbetic or spiritual. Nobody fights liturgical wars over Gothic versus classical as they did in the last century. And, since Guildford and Coventry, cathedral-building has heen completely off the national agenda. One obvious reason is that if any-

body suggested a cathedral, somebody else would immediately say it should he a hospital/community centre/gym and nohody, not even the Church, would dare disagree. "How many divisions has the Pope?" asked Stalin. We ask the same question, softened for contemporary ears: "How many acute beds has St Paul's?"

Another reason is the alarming, levelling doctrine of multiculturalism. How could we huild a cathedral rather than a mosque or temple? The Prince gets round this by embracing more moral than we are. We wallow

and the second



Multicultural millennium? Buildings such as Neasden's Hindu temple show optimism and faith, not fashionable nihilism

multiculturalism, redefining himself touch it. as the Defender of Faith rather than Defender of the Faith. Perhaps in a desperate attempt to express his own transcendent longings against the prevailing orthodoxy of materialism, be identifies a generalised buman spirituality rather than any sectarian creed as the only possible solution to

our woes. This immediately lands him in trouble. The press, suffering from its usual cultural hipolar disorder, reports him as saying that money should go to mosques. The intention is, of course, to inflame anti-Islamic feeling, an enduring given in the newspaper imagination. The Prince has obligingly provided yet more ammunition, even to the extent of, at one point, quoting the Koran. This, clearly, is a man who has sold out to the chanting nutters.

But wait a minute. The stories quote Muslims as saying they could not accept lottery cash because of their own injunction against gam-bling. So, disgusted as the newspapers' highly moral readership may be at the idea of financing mosques, in reality it turns out the Muslims are

Unconsciously, in its zeal to inflame prejudice, this coverage dramatises precisely the right point. For British Muslims do huild mosques - frequently hig, cathedral-like ones - and the Hindus build temples. The Prince himself contrasts the vast new Hindu temple in Neasden with our own plans for "a giant, but essentially meaningless, party which will soon be no more than a passing memory". If we can't huild cathedrals, he implies, then help them huild theirs. Faith, bope, of one kind or another, will be served and who is to say that Neasden is not the Lincoln

There is much that can be said gainst the reduction of faith to a hland, all-purpose spirituality. But Charles's point remains strong. The disconsolate, separated heir is clearly searching for significance, a coherent reason for celebration that is more than merely functional, sentimental or hedonistic. He thinks that, without such a reason, we will not only bave a lousy millennium party, we shall

or Wells of the future? Not us, cer-

tainly, a people who cannot tell the

difference between a spandrel and a

a constitutionally radical form of in tainted lottery cash, they won't have a lousy millennium, an era just multiculturalism, redefining himself touch it. century. But, equally, he believes this will not bappen, that we are on the verge of a new spirituality, a reconnection to our transcendent roots. Perhaps now is precisely the

time to start a few cathedrals.

This is, of course, unrealistic. If we are on the verge of a new age the Millennium Commission will certainly be at lunch when it happens. Neither cathedrals nor any other kind of materially functionless monuments can, these days, be talked through the committees, accountants, managers and single-issue freaks that dominate the decision-making process in Britain. Secular monuments get huilt - art galleries, theatres, concert halls - but these invariably bave to be justified either by a liberal élitist ideology of art or by the promise of commercial gain. Art survives 10 make transcendent demands, but only, in the public realm, as a religious sur-rogate or as corporate advertising. One way or another, function has to prevail hecause the possibility of a shared non-functional reality simply does not exist.

When the Prince witters about architecture what he really wants is

Kalpesh Lathigra pretty villages dotted around Palla-dian mansions, all frozen at some point in the early 18th century. There are plenty of modern architects that can do better than that. On the subject of the millennium, however, he has rightly detected that there is no one. His reaction is bravely to demand the impossible - or, if not that, then at least support for other British cultures that have not yet suc-

cumbed to our nihilism. It is sad that this well-meaning hul usually appallingly ill-advised man can expect his idealism to be greeted with little more than mockery, or that his thoughts will be interpreted as one more shot in the feud with his estranged wife. Sad, but oddly appropriate. For there he is, talking about cathedrals and the ravages of materialism while, daily, Diana is photographed in Lycra turning up to worship at the pec decks and treadmills of her Chelsea gym. The separation has become a Cartesian war between the soul and the body.

Well, at least that makes one thing easy. I gather that in court circles these days you are expected to be either of the Charles or the Diana party. It is a relief to know at last

Orange's underlying "chivalrous" hut patronising attitude to women writers:

that they are creatures under threat.

What the country needs are literary

prizes that encourage specific ways of

writing, particular ways of conceiving

experience. They should reflect the

tastes and visions of their donors.

British Airways could encourage

books on flying, Marks & Spencer,

beautifully packaged works on domes-

tic subjects, and a mobile phone maker

could aid writers of works written

AT THESE PRICES DISTANT **RELATIVES NEEDN'T BE** SO DISTANT. £7.39 £11.34 South Africa £4.81 £7.05 Hong Kong £4.22 £6.56 £4.34 \$8.77 Australia £2.34 £5.23 £7.16 £9.94 Brazi £1.75 £3.40

£6.69 (Price comparison based on a 10 minute call)

£2.22

★ Savings to 100's of countries

Germany/France

israel

- * All major credit cards and Delta accepted
- ★ "Minate Miles" bonus available * No start-up costs, membarship or joining fees
- * Sesinass and Residential costomers walcome. ★ Operators available, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.

FREEPHONE 0800 376 66 66 **1**



BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD, PHONE US

Patronage of the worst kind

Behind the highly venerable concept of giving prizes to writers lies the idea that good books and their authors frequently miss oul on two things - sufficient publicity for their work and sufficient money to continue producing Therefore, the news that Orange, the mobile phone company, has set up It is therefore with interest that one

a new literary prize worth £30,000 is momentous and cheering. Because so many books are written about so many things it is also emi-nently understandable that prizes should be limited to particular sorts of books, the kind donors see as unfairly treated by the market. A patron of the arts is in a privileged position to define a vision of the world via the choice of artists he or she sponsors. Someone

who believes that more people should write books like Aristotle, Diderot or Proust could award a prize to anyone who attempted anything m that genre.

views the area Orange wishes to promote and encourage with its generous prize. This is where the problem starts, for it turns out that their prize has absolutely no conditions other than that it has to be awarded to a woman. Why a woman, one may ask? What is it about being a woman that is particularly under threat, in need of attention, or indeed distinctive from

ANOTHER VIEW

Alain de Botton

being a man when it comes to picking up a pen? Women regularly win literary prizes, the Whitbread and Booker this year. They write as many books as men and depict their own gender with no more success than

types such as Flaubert.
Why did Orange not identify an element in the writing of certain women

that it particularly liked and then choose to award the prize to anyone. be it male or female, who handled the theme well? Dilemmas of unhappily married women are often better treated by women than men, but something is wrong with a prize that would have excluded Tolstoy.

The reader may be wondering about the author, though being a male writer happy to receive £30,000 does not, by definition, invalidate the argument, which would stand even if Vodafone offered a male equivalent next week. iic Movement' (£5.99) and 'Kiss and That it probably won't reflects Tell' (£9.99).

The writer is the outhor of Essays in Love (Macmillan £5.99), The Roman-

entirely in the dialogue form.

Œ

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Abdullah

wins in

Water

Hall vote

Raschid Abdullah, best known for turning a small en-

gineering company in the

1980s into a mini-conglom-

erate called Evered, yesterday

in effect won control of the

board of Water Hall after a

DAVID HELLIER

Fresh crisis for British Gas as levy call rejected

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Industrial Correspondent

The Government has dealt a swingeing blow to British Gas by refusing to pave the way for a levy on its rivals to offset the massive costs of long-term con-

producers. The company has some £15bn worth of contracts that are forcing it to buy more gas than it can sell and it has called repeatedly for ministers to help bait it out of its predicament.

tracts with North Sea

There are fears in the City that British Gas will cut its 1996 interim dividend because of estimated liabilities of £1.5bn related to the contracts. This year alone the company is paying £520m for gas it cannot yet

use. Richard Giordano, the chairman, has warned that the problem could be exacerbated by the planned introduction of domestic competition from April.

The blow came just a day after British Gas announced sweeping boardroom changes with the appointment as group finance director of Philip Hampton, the 42-year-old finance director of British Steel. The move allows his predecessor, Roy Gardner, to take on a much wider brief including renegotiation of the contracts.

Mr Gardner is increasingly regarded as the eventual redacement for Cedric Brown, chief executive. British Gas said: "These gas

contracts are part of the costs of restructuring the gas market.
It would be inequitable for the full cost of transition from monopoly to the competitive market [from which consumers will benefit] to he borne by British Gas shareholders alone." But it pointed out that renegotiation was always seen as the key, with a tevy as a "safety net". A source in the company

added: "With more than £15bu in payments to be made under the contracts, this is by any definition a very serious problem." The Government's decision

barely begun.

the company was in a state of "chaos" from which there was

no simple escape and that it

could not just blame the Gov-

ernment's decision to intro-

duce competition in the market-

There is also a view, bowever,

that the company may be over-

stating the size of the problem

cil bas called for an inquiry by

the House of Commons Trade

and Industry Select Committee

The Gas Consumers Coun-

was applauded by a jubilant Gas Consumers Council. Ian Powe, director, said: "The levy was never going to be more than an insurance policy against British Gas going bust, but the political premium was beginning to look a bit pricey. Consumers would bave found it intolerable that any government should think it reasonable they should hail out British Gas whose directors are well rewarded to sort out the company's own

Provision for the levy would have been included in the new licences for public gas suppliers,

Gardner, recently promoted in a boardroom shift, and Richard Giordano, chairman

problems.



Set back on their heels : (left to right) Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, Roy



D-Day: Kevin Maxwell (left) and his brother lan will hear from the SFO today

Photograph: Edward Webb

decision today on Maxwells

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

Kevin and Ian Maxwell will discover today whether the Serious Fraud Office intends to pursue or drop a the oustanding criminal charges against them, following their sensational acquittal on two counts a week ago. The original indictment consisted of ten counts, two of which formed the basis of the eight-month trial which ended with the acquittal of Kevin and Ian and Larry Tracbetenberg, a former Marwell financial adviser, on charges of

conspiracy to defraud. City sources said last night that if the SFO drops the rebrothers before the Social Security Select Committee.

The MPs tried to quiz Kevin and Ian in 1992, after the death of their father Rohert Maxwell and the collapse of his business empire.
The committee wanted to

know how more than £440m was removed from the Maxwell pension funds. Both brothers told the committee that they were unable to say anything, pending the criminal case. If today the SFO drops any

remaining criminal charges then Mr Field and his committee will be free to call them again. Last night be said: "Our primary con-

maining eight counts Frank cern will be how well the legal Field MP will call the Maxwell system and the regulatory syssystem and the regulatory sys-tem protected £440m in the pension funds, which no-one disputes was stolen. The ques-tion remains how it was stolen."

> on the indictment include charges against two other former Maxwell employees Michael Stoney and Albert

The remaining eight counts

Titller.

The charges were that:
Kevin Maswell Larry Trachtenberg and Albert Fulke conspined with Robert Maswell to defraud Credit Suisse by dishonestly piedging shares belonging to Macmillan and to First Tokyo Index Trust as collateral for a 25m loan to Morror Group.

Kevin Maswell and Albert Fuller conspired with Robert Maswell to defraud Bayersiche Vereinstonk by pledging im Beritus shares as collateral for a £5m loan to Mirror Group.

Kevin Maxwell conspired with Robert Maxwell to defraud the Swiss Bank Cor-poration by dishonestly pledging and sel-ing shares belonging to First Tokyo Index

ing shares belonging to First Tokyo Index Trust.

Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg conspired with Robert Maxwell to defraud the Trustees and beneficiaries of the Mirror Group Pension Scheme and AGR Pension Scheme by dishonestly plettging pension assets to secure loans from Credit Suisse and Swiss Volksbank to the private Maxwell businesses.

Kevin Maxwell and Michael Stoney, a former funance director of Mirror Group conspired with Robert Maxwell to borrow £50m on behalf of MGN and use the proceeds for other purposes.

Michael Stoney Laistified the accounting records of MGN by removing the receipt of £50m from Bankers Trust. And that he removed the record of MGN's liability to Brankers Trust.

Kevin Maxwell, Larry Trachtenberg and Ian Maxwell conspired to defraud Swies Volksbank by dishonestly pledging 24m shares in Bertlitz as security for a \$35m loan to the private Maxwell businesses.

sbarebolders' vote. Some 434 million votes were cast in favour of a resolution requiring Edward Weiss, the company's chairman, to stand down, with 155

Brong

Railtr

million cast against. Mr Weiss said that a small group of sbarebolders who owned significant blocks of shares and wbo a year ago agreed not to use their voting power against the board, accounted for approximately 60 per cent of the votes cast and they voted in favour of the resolutions.

Yesterday's events mark a return to corporate power for Mr Ahdullah and his brother Osman who together turned Evered into an acquisitive mini-conglomerate hefore they were both forced out after a hoardroom split.

The two brothers were also involved earlier in the management of Water Hall, when it was known as Starmin, but in 1993 they resigned their executive positions when the group was in need of a financial restructuring.

As part of that restructuring Raschid Abdullah, who remained on the hoard as a non-executive director. arranged some of the financing from Middle Eastern investors who yesterday backed him in the overthrow of Mr Weiss.

Mr Abduliah has argued that the group, which has been pulled around into profit by Mr Weiss, should now pull out of its traditional quarrying and landfill busi-ness and move into a new

business.

Mr Weiss said yesterday that be regretted the outcome of the sharebolders' vote "but wished the company well for the future". He ointed out that of the sbareholders who voted on the motion, 1,284 voted against the motion and only 604 vot-

ed in favour of it. However, the small group of shareholders that owned significant blocks of shares pushed the vote through on the Abdullahs behalf.

As part of the resolution Anthony Smith, formerly with Wagon Industrial, will become a director of the company. He has said he will look at issues independently, although be is perceived to be a supporter of the Abdullahs.

Raschid Ahdullah told sbareholders at yesterday's meeting that be bad an "open mind" about the strategy Wa-92 94 98 ter Hall should follow.

George denies being fixated on inflation

PAUL WALLACE Economics Editor

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, has de-fended himself against charges that he is fixated on controlling inflation and mounted a vigorous defence of the Bank's

supervisory powers. In a lecture at the London School of Economics, Mr George also delivered what many will see as an implicit rebuke to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, for last week's

unexpected cut in interest rates, "Time and again we have seen attempts to stimulate the economy directly result in a relatively short period of faster economic growth, followed by recession brought on by the pol-icy restraint which was eventually unavoidable to bring increasing economic imbalance and accelerating inflation back under control, he said.

The absence of any open en-dorsement of the cut in base rate to 6.25 per cent led many City analysts to conclude that the Bank would have preferred delay after the inital quarter point reduction in December.

However, Mr George said the new monetary framework under which the Bank's advice to the Chancellor is published six weeks after each monthly meeting was proving a success.

What matters in the end is the results, in terms of our performance - on inflation, but also on growth and employment.

'All I would say to you is we have made steady progress in all these respects over the past three years, and the prospects remain very encouraging."
The Governor's emphasis on

growth and employment formed part of a broader defence of the Bank's mission of price stability. MPs on the Treasury Committee recently criffcised Mr George for bis unwillingness to concede that be made a misjudgement last May, when the Chancellor overruled his request for a further rise in interest rates.

The Governor insisted that the Bank's mission of price stahility was not a goal in itself, but "because we see it as a means to the end uf precisely those good things in life which our critics assume we disregard".

Mr George defended the Bank's role in supervising banks. He argued the two objectives of monetary and fi-nancial stability went hand in hand: disturbances in the financial sector could disrupt the pursuit of monetary stabil-

ity and vice-versa.

The blurring of financial institutions had created new regulatory challenges but the touted solution of a single financial services regulator seriously under-estimated the complexity of the

"Any central bank must monitor developments in the banking system very closely and that will necessarily involve monitoring individual banks."

ML boss makes £55m in biotech boom

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Kevin Leech, the chairman and co-founder of ML Laboratories, yesterday sold a share stake worth £55m as biotecbnology stocks roared to new peaks in London. The value of British Biotech.

the largest, broke through the £1bn barrier after one analyst reiterated his buy recommendation and several companies is-sued optimistic statements on current drug developments.

Mr Leech's Milner Labora-

tories is reducing its stake in the USM-listed ML Laboratories from 66 per cent to 54 per cent in a placing at 400p. The deal will raise £55m for Milner, which is 66 per cent owned by Mr Leech and is the vehicle through which he backed the

JOHN EISENHAMMER

Big City institutions were last

night showing initial support for Sir Rocco Forle's intention to

buy back many of the botels lost

One senior fund manager

aid: "Rocco has more than a

fighting change of getting the

equity backing he needs. Insti-tutions are flush with cash and

he bas gained sufficient friends

in the City by his defence."

Just 24 bours after losing

control of the Forte empire to

Granada, Sir Rocco announced

his intention to lead a man-

agement buyout of the 167 Ex-

clusive, Meridien and Heritage

to the Granada takeover.

Financial Editor

ed on the Third Market in 1987. The estate of the late Mr Milner owns the rest of Milner

ML is itself raising £25m in a placing at the same price. The money is to be used in the development of Icodial, a kidney dialysis solution and the only one of ML's products currently on the market.

ML's shares rose 46p to a new high of 457p yesterday, despite the announcement of pre-tax losses which deepened from £2.76m to £3.4m in the year to

September. Excitement centred on the announcement that a clinical study of a potential Aids treatment was "progressing well". The tests involve a new anti-vi-

a substanual amount of equity

from institutions, with a pledge

to float shortly afterwards. "He

needs sufficient equity backing

before raising the sort of debt required fur a bid to proceed."

In a guarded response,

Granada said it bad only ever declared its intention to sell the

Exclusive and Meridien chains.

"In parallel with discussions

with other interested parties.

Granada would be happy lo

consider any proposal that Sir

Rocco may wish to make con-

cerning these particular brands,

once he and his team are in a

position to put forward a seri-

Analysts said a Forte bid for

ous offer.

a corporate banker said.

dial, which it is claimed enables shares bave gathered strength drugs to be delivered more ef- during a recent round of visits fectively. But some analysis greeted the test results at London's Hammersmith Hospital with some scepticism, given that they only covered four patients with Aids.

British Biotech, continuing to benefit from November's announcement of promising results from its Marimastat anti-cancer drug, rose another 70p to a record close of £21.68. The shares have now risen 29 per cent in just under a fortnight, although the company re-

nains at a loss to explain why. The main propellant behind yesterday's sbare movement seems to bave been a reiterated buy recommendation by Ian White, pharmaceuticals ana-

£2.5bn. He is expected to seek the hotels as a block had several is interested in buying all the as-

advantages over potential rivals, so that he could afford to bid

more. "Rocco knows all about

the businesses, where the prof-

its are, while everyone else is bid-

ding hlind. He stands the best

chance of keeping the lucrative management contracts, and a

block deal could be done in a tax-efficient way for Granada."

Accor, beaten to Meridien by

Forte when Air France sold the

four-slar chain in 1994, is be-

lieved to be interested in these

hotels again. Speculation has

also centered on the US buyout

specialist Kohlberg, Kravis and Roberts as a possible financial

purchaser. "But we bave found

nobody else internationally who

said one investment banker.

City warming to Rocco buyout

medical inventor Jeremiah Mil- ral agent, D2S dissolved in Ico- lyst at Robert Fleming. But the by management to institutional investors in London and Scotland. Earlier this month, Guardian Royal Exchange announced that it bad raised its stake to 4.1 per cent. Sentiment was further buoyed this week after a new non-executive director, Henny de Ruiter, picked up 3,000 shares.

Elsewhere in the sector, Correcs International, the Australian biotech company, saw its shares hit a peak, rising 33p to 270p. The company said it had achieved a "key milestone" in its development of a rapid. wbole-blood, point-of-care diagnostic product for the detection of collagen breakdown, a key indicator of osteoporosis.

sets, many just want bits," a cor-

about £320m from selling its

shares to Granada, and is re-

ported to have lines of credits

said: "That is a good basis for

attracting equity from institu-tions for a bid for Forte New company. There is a lot in the

idea that appears sensible."
Exclusive group's 18 luxury hotels include the George V in

Paris and London's Grosvenor

House. Meridien is made up of

85 business botels, while Her-

itage comprises 52 inns. Granada's hid was yesterday

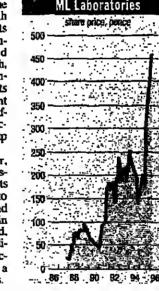
declared unconditional.

One institutional manager

The Forte family will net

porate financer said.

for another £250m.



Government raises £144m

from BAA sale

RUSSELL HOTTEN

The Government yesterday raised £144m after selling its remaining stake in BAA, the airports operator, as part of a gradual disposal of its hold-

ing in privatised companies.
The Treasury sold the 2.86 per cent stake to Merrill Lynch for about 490p after a secret City auction for the its kind in the City and used husiness organised by NM Rothschild.

Dealers said Merrill placed the 29.5 million shares with several institutions at about 494p. BAA sbares closed 1p lower at 495p.

The Government's sale had been expected since it indicated last year that it had asked Rothschild to divest the remaining post-privatisation commit a large amount of shareholdings.

The sale of a block of British Petroleum shares worth £180m in December marked the start of this process.

with the disposal of a 14 per cent interest in Mersey Docks shareholdings in the privatised water and electricity companies and generators.

Lahour Party critics have "selling off the family sil- money.

ver" to pay for tax cuts in advance of the next general election.

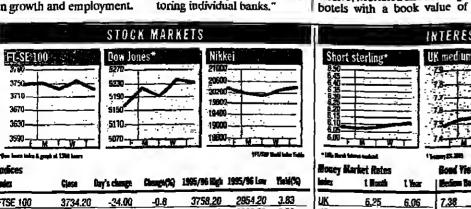
Rothschild was commissioned last year to sell a sbare portfolio of 34 government "bin-enda" worth more than £1.2bn, of which BP was the first and largest. The BP sale was claimed to he the largest bought deal of a rarely-employed procedure.

It is thought that Rothschild invited securities firms to its offices after the markets bad closed and kept each team separate while they bid for the BAA business.

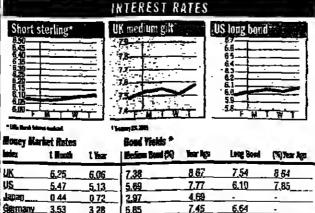
They were given little advance warning of the details of the sale, other than that they would be called upon to

Meanwhile, yesterday the chairman of BAA, Gordon Edington, warned that the world's airports faced a massive funding shortfall to meet The sales will continue the buge demand for investment in facilities.

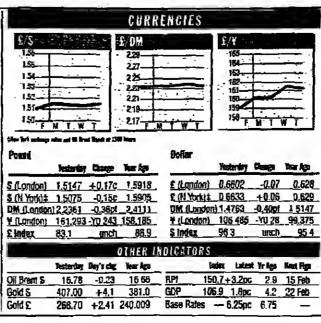
Speaking at a conference. & Harbour Company and be said that the funding gap -\$50bn in the US alone over the next five years - could only be hridged by private sector finance as local auaccused the Government of thorities would not have the

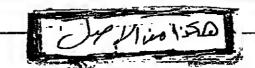


FTSE 100 3734.20 3300.90 3.59 T<u>SE 250</u> 1482.40 3.78 1863.90 <u>FTSE 350</u> 2003,76 1678.61 3.12 FT Small Cap 2003.76 +1.17 +0.1 1837.17 1469.23 3.73 1828.67 -0.5 FT All Shara 5242.84 -0,2 -9.03 New York ' 5233.81 20669.03 14485.41 0.781 20414.69 +101.95 +0.5 6967.93 3.38t 11103 08 + 142.87 <u>Hong Kong</u> +0.9 1910.96 1.84† 2443.72 +20.65 Source: FT Information



Uk ken kana Okey Marke Jes	t Ret t Nooi		The Team	Boad Vie Bedien Ba		Year Ngo	Long Bo	ed (%)	New Ago
K	6,25		5.06	7.38		8.67	7,54	. 8	5 4
	5.47		1.13	5.69		7.77	6.19	7,	85
рар	0 44		72	2.97		4.69			
ermany	3,53		28	5.85		7.45	6,64		
Ascheurt in	ies						_		
283		Price (g)	Short (N PRIC	E CK	ANGES.	Price (s)	Charge (b)	1000
Laborator	ės	457	46	11,2	Meda	7 2	217.5	15.5	71
egis Group		43.5	1.8	4.2	Britis		200	15	7.0
ssocd Brit F	orts	285	11	40	Televi		125.5	- 6	45





business



Footens gears up

BHI EOSSIP ON MAM

ERIC PARKET DESCRIPTION

Abdulla

Winsin Water

'If British Gas cannot

find a way of negotiating the cost of the take-or-pay penalty down, or of absorbing the cost in

its own balance sheet, shareholders should find a new

management that can'

British Gas pays the price for its grand folly Common sense has prevailed, and the Government has told British Gas where

to put its levy. The biggest surprise is that it took ministers as long as it did to come down against the idea of making gas consumers bail out a company which largely has itself to blame for highly priced take-or-pay North Sea supply contracts. There was never, in truth, much of a case for assistance even though it plainly might be damaging for the consumer if British Gas descended into se-

rious financial difficulty.

The company has never given a figure for the potential cost of continuing with the contracts. Sceptics have always believed the company exaggerates its plight. However, industry guestimates do point to a liability of £1.5bn or more. Losses of anywhere near this would be exceedingly painful, representing more than three years of dividends at the latest rate of £630m a year. But they are not enough to bankrupt a company with shareholders' funds of nearly £8bn. With the shares hitting new lows almost daily, there is clearly concern in the stock market that the take-or-pay fiasco will none the less be

used as grounds for cutting the dividend.
We are perhaps past the stage of needing explanations for this extraordinary affair. When British Gas signed so many high-price contracts - including three after 1991 - it obviously thought its supply monopoly would continue indefinitely. The plain truth seems to be that it simply failed to foresee the conpresent gas glut. Or at least it believed its monopoly so secure that it didn't matter what was happening in the market place, it would break-up bid and new Labour is highly likely

still be able to charge what it liked.

What makes the producers particularly hot under the collar is that the price British Gas's offshore subsidiary charges its own inhouse supply arm for Morecambe Bay gas is even today higher than most of them get from the take-or-pay contracts at issue. In other words it is still paying itself more than it pays most other producers. It can there-fore expect little mercy in the negotiations which must now begin with some urgency.

The man put in charge of sorting out the mess, Roy Gardner, needs a radical approach to the problem if British Gas is to emerge with any credit. It may well be that getting out of gas supply altogether, leaving the company as a gas producer and monopoly distributor, proves the most elequent solution to the problem. Selling the supply arm piecemeal to the producers with the problematic contracts attached would also achieve in one stroke the fully competitive domestic gas market the Government wants

Labour's mergers policy needs rethinking

By one of those odd coincidences, the Forte takeover battle came to a head just as the Labour Party was sitting down to desequences of a fall in the gas price and the cide on what kind of mergers policy, if any,

Labour might well have blocked Granada's break-up bid and new Labour is highly likely to form the next Government, the party's thoughts on the matter bear some examination. Rightly or wrongly, the Forte hattle has come to be seen as the very embodiment of 1980s-style asset stripping in which the short-term interests of a small group of pow-erful City investors and fee earners domi-

nate over other "stakeholders". As things stand, Labour is committed to that old canard of a mergers poticy - that bidders should be required to demonstrate positive benefit or have their takeovers blocked. While in theory this is a fine idea, in practice it would make merger decisions highly susceptible to political whim and favour. It is easier to explain what is means by the "stakeholder" economy than define the "public interest" in a takeover. The result would be a mergers policy run along the lines of Forresi Gump - you never know what you're going to git (sic). The present Goveroment's purist approach - markets decide unless there are very clear cut competition concerns - may be at the other extreme but

at least it has the merit of predictability.

It so happens that on Wednesday night, as Sir Rocco Forte was nursing his wounds, Labour's advisory task force on competition policy was holding its first meeting in Westminster. By all accounts, task force members came down heavily against the present Labour Party position. The mixed hag of the task force do not decide Labour policy. But they are expected to have a serious input into the manifesto, by helping politicians decide what is practical. Surprise surprise. what they want is to water down public inter-est and keep competition high on the agenda in merger policy.

In Europe, competition is the only factor. If Labour sticks to its present position it could be faced with the absurdity of having big" mergers decided by Europe on com-petition grounds alone while only the smaller domestic ones get subjected to the full pub-lic interest works. A better approach would be to make the process by which investment institutions decide on takeovers much more open to public scrutiny and justification.

Minimum wage is the next step for the CBI

In itself, Adair Turner's speech at an In-stitute of Personnel and Development con-ference yesterday was rather less remarkable than the way it was hilled. True, the CBI's director general told employers to pay their workers more. He even used the "s" word, though he gave the idea of "stakeholding"

his own particular spin.

But he also argued that rising real incomes had to be earned through higher produc-

competition specialists and experts from utilities, retailers, cable companies and the National Consumer Council who make up the test force decided to the content of the c employee share ownership schemes. His message that Britain must avoid the danger of becoming a low-wage economy is the sort of thing many businessmen have been saying for years. Furthermore, his speech contained the familiar warning of the potential for a new upward wage-price spiral. All uncontroversial enough, it might be said.

However, Mr Turner's remarks have a log-ical extension that the CBI has so far refused to accept. That is the need for a national minimum wage. It is at the very bottom of the labour market that real incomes have fallen most precipitously. It is there where the sweatshop labour is concentrated. Raising the rewards and skills of those on very low incomes will do more for Britain's competitive position than persuading a few more hig companies of the case for profit-related pay. As every businessman knows, to compete on cost alone is the road to ruin.

There is now a very respectable body of research showing that the level of minimum wage proposed by Tony Blair would not cause big job losses. On the contrary, it would improve recruitment and retention in tow-paid jobs, and encourage firms to provide more training. The CBI still mistakenly argues the opposite. Even a low minimum would cause problems, it argued in its latest statement on the subject. Mr Turner should take his argument to its logical conclusion.

firms are still facing matching

Airtours shares shrugged off

verse a dramatic profits slump last year. That was also caused by a big miscalculation of the apfor overseas trips, compounded

Analysts said the news would have hit the stock harder but for persistent speculation that Corporation, America's biggest

Last week, a leak forced Airtours to confirm that it was in talks with Carnival which might

Brokers lukewarm on

Railtrack prospects

ment to write off a large part of Railtrack's £1.65bn debt ahead

of the flotation, reducing inter-

The authors, Wyn Ellis,

be construed as a profit forecast

and they disclaimed any con-

nection with SBC Warhurg's

role in the share sale. Never-

theless, their analysis is bound

Warburg suggested that pre-

to influence City expectations.

tax profits, including excep-tionals, would be £178m in the

year to March, £11m lower than

last year. Next year they would rise to £195m, reaching £210m

in 1997-98, £230m in 1988-99

the pressure on the govern- and £251m the following year.

downbeat analysis yesterday Andrew Fitchie and Bill Dale, climb back only to £191m. from SBC Warburg, global co-said their numbers should not Improved efficiency and

est charges and raising profits, as the chairman, Bob Horton, this year to £203m, fall to £168m

up to 29.9 per cent in the British company. A spokesman for Airtours yesterday poured their shelves.

The number of bolidays travcold water on the prospect of a full hid and the company said only that it would make a further announcement as soon as

According to the company, bookings across the industry are down 25 per cent for summer 1996 holidays, It excused its own year to avoid confusing travel

el companies have pre-bought for this summer is running 15 per cent lower than 12 months ago in an effort to reduce overcapacity and avoid the fire sale of unsold trips forced on the industry in 1995. Last year's oversupply was partly caused by reasonably buoyant sales in the early months which ran out of

package holidays is always difficult for travel companies, with large numbers of holidaymakers leaving their decisions until

years, they have been able to pick up unsold vacancies at hargain prices.

About one-fifth of the following summer's holidays are sold by Christmas and a further 25 per cent in the cold, dark months of January and Fehruary. After that, however, there is a lull in sales until July and August, when 30 per cent of the year's supply is sold sbortly before departure.

Last year, Airtours saw its profits slide from £75.8m to £59.1m, the first decline in nine years. This time analysis expect a return to 1994's profits level, work flowed through to sales.

the last minute when, in recent although ofter stripping out years, they have been able to the contribution of the new Sunquest subsidiary underlying profits are still likely to be down on two years ago. Winter bookings of the overseas oper-

ations are up 12 per cent. Contrary to the poor prospects for next summer Airtours said the winter season was "progressing satisfactorily" Bookings were running 4 per cent ahead of last year, in line with the market as a whole Going Places, the Airtours travel agency arm, had increased its market share as the benefits of

an expansion of its branch net-

IN BRIEF

Member of WH Smith family sells shares

Philip Smith, the last remaining family member on the board of WH Smith, the troubled retail group, has sold a third of his holding in the company. He raised more than £12m through the sale of 3.24 million sbares at 400p on Wednesday after the company had reported a sharp fall in profits. Jeremy Hardie, WH Smith chairman, said Mr Smith, who is a non-executive director, had sold the shares "to diversify his portfolio". He denied that the sale indicated a lack of confidence in the company's future.

National Savings cuts rates

National Savings yesterday cut with immediate effect the rates paid to savers across its range of products by an average of 0.5 per cent. The reduction includes Pensioners' Bonds, down from 7.5 to 7 per cent, and Index-Linked Certificates, down from 3 to 2.5 per cent, plus inflation.

Maize costs hit Tate & Lyle division

Sharply higher maize costs mean 1996 profits at Staley, Tate & Lyle's US operation, will be "below those achieved in 1994 and 1995", shareholders were told at the sugar company's annual meeting yesterday. The Staley downturn will hold group profits for the year to September to no more than last year's £311.1m.

Strike halves Boeing earnings

Boeing's net earnings fell 54 per cent last year as it suffered the effects of a 10-week machinists' strike and what analysts helieve was the final stages of a long industry downturn. Boeing earned \$393m, or \$1.15 a share, for the year on sales of \$19.5bn, down from earnings of \$856m, or \$2.51 a share, on sales of \$21.9bn in 1994. Fourth-quarter net earnings rose 38 per cent, but only due to a tax credit as sales fell 11 per cent, largely because of the strike.

Rovers break half-million barrier

Production of Rovers and Land-Rovers hroke the half-million barrier last year for the first time since 1989. A total of 501,300 vehicles were huilt, an increase of 4.8 per cent, while sales rose by 2 per cent. Almost half of sales were exports, with records set in Japan and North America. Rover recruited an extra 3,900 workers last year, taking its total workforce to 40,000, the highest figure for five years.

Fyffes buys Dutch stake

Fyffes, the hanana company that acquired the Geest banana husiness last month, has acquired a 50 per cent shareholding in Anaco International, a Dutch fresh fruit and produce company. The business imports and distributes fuit and vegetables from the Canary Islands, Spain and Morocco.

Slump in Airtours bookings continues

TOM STEVENSON

Holiday bookings in the important new year selling season remain more than a third below last year, Airtours shareholders were told at the holiday company's annual meeting vesterday. Despite moves to reduce sharply the number of holidays on offer for next summer, the latest figures confirmed the difficulties travel

supply with expected demand. the news, despite the doubt cast

PETER RODGERS

Railtrack's profit after tax will

fall next year and will not regain

ordinator to the privatisation.

The brokers warned that the

scope for Railtrack to grow its

revenue in the near term was

limited, although there was

"some potential" to generate

property development profits of

The analysis is likely to be

read as confirmation of the

widespread view in the City

that Railtrack will be lncky to

fetch £2bn. It will also increase

about £11m a year.

the 1995-96 level even by the end has sought.

Business Editor

petite of British holidaymakers by a long hot summer that persuaded late bookers to stay at

Airtours might be the subject of a hid approach from Carnival cruise husiness.

there was anything to report.

34 per cent decline by saying brochures had been delayed this agents. In 1994 a rush of late bookings meant agents were still trying to sell holidays for that by the figures on its ability to re- see the US giant take a stake of year after hrochures for the fol-

After-tax profits will benefit

for the next two years from tax

relief inherited from British

Rail. The net profit will double

next year and by 1999-2000

they believe net profits will

Improved efficiency and cost

cutting were likely to be the

main drivers of Railtrack's near

term profit, with savings of 3 per

cent a year on maintenance.

"There is great scope for using

people and technology more ef-

main qualities as substantial

asset backing, a predictable revenue stream in a stable reg-

ulatory framework and a "sub-

stantial cost base" that would

allow efficiency improvements.

ficiently" the analysts said. They described Railtrack's

steam later. Judging the likely demand for

Bob Horton: expected to increase the pressure for a bigger debt write-off

FLIGHTS INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON HOLIDAYS AND

Take off with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday's Fly Now Pay Later offer.

We've tearned up with Co-op Travelcare, one of the top travel agency chains in the UK, so that readers of The Independent can get up to £2,500 Interest Free Credit on holdays and flights booked through our special service. So now you can take off when you feel the inclination without paying everything up front. For example, on a holiday costing £2,500, at a typical APR of 14.9% you would save £328.

With over 300 holiday brochures and 49 autines to choose from, there are holidays to suit everyone. Whether it's snowboarding in the Alos, a romantic weekend city break, or trekking in Nepal, you'll have the freedom to take off anytime between 1 February-31 December 1996.

How to Qualify for the Easy Pay-

ment Plan Each day in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday, until Saturday 3rd February, we will print a different numbered token. In order to qualify for the Fly Now Pay Later Easy Payment Plan, you need to collect eight differently numbered tokens and keep them safe until you are ready to make your booking. Today we are printing Token 5.

How to Book Your Holiday You can select any overseas holiday available from over 300 major name brochures, subject to availability. This includes holidays from major tour operators such as British Airways Holidays, Cosmos, P & O Cruises, Airtours, Surtworld, First Choice and many more. Simply pick up the brochure of your choice and

select your holiday.
If you are planning to visit friends or relatives, or simply prefer the freedom to travel independently, you can choose to book scheduled flights only, provided the overall booking value meets our minimum limit of £500. There are 49 airlines to choose from, including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, TWA, Qantas, Air France and United Airlines.

With the Fly Now Pay Later Easy Payment Plan all you pay is the cost of your holiday, plus insurance. There are no hidden extra charges, providing that you fulfil the terms of your

Easy Payment agreement. The amount of the booking is payable by Direct Debit in 10 equal monthly installments from the time of booking. At least three of these payments must be made prior to travel. If, however, you wish to travel within three months of making your booking, you may do so by paying your first three installments (i.e 30% of the cost of your holiday) at the time of booking. You are then free to make the remaining pay-

ments over the next seven months. It is a requirement of the offer that you purchase Co-op Travelcare insurance at the time of booking. Details of the policy are available on request. To check that your preferred flight

or holiday is available, and that it

is eligible for the Easy Payment Plan,

simply call The Independent/Fly Now

application form whilst you are on to provide further information before



Pay Later helpline below:

0161 827 1044

If the holiday is available, and you meet the credit rule requirements, the Co-op Travelcare's friendly reservations staff will complete a credit in some cases, you may be required

the phone. If the holiday or flight that your status can be confirmed. you require is not available, you will

be advised of alternative options. Your rating will be checked in the normal way and a decision made instantly. The agent will then call you back to advise you of your status.

Once your application has been accepted, your agent will book your holiday for you. You will be asked to pay the holiday insurance premium by credit or debit card whilst

you are on the phone. Co-op Travelcare will send confirmation of your holiday booking,

together with a credit agreement and Direct Debit mandate which you will be required to sign and return

in the pre-paid envelope provided. If you have the relevant brochure, you will find a booking form at the back which you must sign and return, together with your eight tokens in a separate envelope, to: The In-dependent Fly Now Pay Later/Co-op Travelcare, Telephone Booking Centre, PO Box 53, New Century House, Manchester M60 4ES, If you do not have a brochure, you will be sent a booking form with your hol-

iday confirmation. If required, you can request a credit check at any time prior to booking your hollday by phoning The Independent/Co-op Travelcare number, however another check will be carried out at the time of booking to ensure that there has been no

change to your status. The Easy Payment Plan cannot be used in conjunction with any other Co-op Travelcare offer. Terms and published.

Fly Now Token 5

™ INDEPENDENT

Fly Now Pay Never!

£25,000 of flights and holidays to be won

Today you could win a seven day holiday for two in Rome, Italy, including flights and accommodation. Expenence the megnificence of this historic city with such sights as the Vatican, the Colosseum, the Sistine chapel, the Trevi fountain and the Catacombs to mention but a few. Or relax in one of Rome's countless cafes and restaurants an enjoy a reat taste of Italian cuisine.

To enter our competition all you need to do is answer the following question and call the Fly Now Pay Never competition line on 0891 161 985.

Question: Which artist painted the celling of the Sistine chapel?

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times. Lines close at midnight tonight. Postal entry can be made by sending your answer, name, acdress and telephone number to: The independent/Fly Now Pay Never Day 5, PO Box 7298, London E14 9EG by no later than 29 January 1996. The winner will be picked at random after entry closes, from all correct entrants.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Lookers moves up another gear

underlying profits and the acquisition of Northern Ireland's largest motor dealer neatly encapsulated the motor trade's two driving themes this year. Trading is difficult and likely to remain so, and the spoils, such as they are, are being enjoyed only by large groups able to capitalise on a marked shift in the

way cars are being sold in the UK.
The acquisition of the Charles Hurst group for £25.3m will be part-funded by a one-for-three rights issue at 125p a share, 19p below yesterday's un-changed close of 144p, and well below the peak of 279p reached at the start of 1994. As the chart below shows, Lookers has been one of the sector's worst performers recently, with analysts critical of the speed of its dealership development programme. Before yesterday's acquisition, the size and loca-tion of many of the group's outlets were considered pretty second-division.

For the year to September, profits slipped from £7m to £6.4m, due largely to a £435,000 charge for the closure of a Nissan depot. At 1.5 per cent of Looker's sales of £399m, the pre-tax margin was unexceptional and underlined the problems still afflicting a husiness where, as the chart shows, sales are still well below their 1989 peak, Earnings per share of 15.2p were down on last year's 19p, although the payout rose 5

per cent to 7.9p.

The Northern Ireland deal is probably good news for Lookers, taking it into an area of the UK economy that since 1992 has grown much faster than the average. The car market that period. It has also taken Lookers into the new retailing concept of motor villages, increasingly the future of

These offer potential car buyers a range of makes on one site, in effect a car supermarket, in contrast to the traditional single franchise sites that have reflected the stranglehold manufac-turers have always held over their distribution chains.

The company has also appeared to pick up on the trend for successful dealers to increase the proportion of profits generated from used car sales. This has been crucial due to greater price awareness among consumers and a savage reduction in dealer discounts offered by manufacturers where markdowns of 17 per cent have been replaced by cuts of 10 to 12 per cent. On a single-digit price/earnings mul-tiple many of the doubts about Look-

creasingly two-tier market, where the best franchises fall to the bigger more successful players, the only attraction remains a chunky 7.4 per cent yield.

Rising costs hurt Holliday

Life on the stock market has been a miserable experience for Holliday Chemical Holdings. Floated at 195p nearly three years ago, the shares have had a switchback ride and are languishing at an all-time low following

yesterday's 45p plunge to 119p.

After a series of unhappy brushes with the City, the profits warning that prompted yesterday's fall is the worst news yet from the company.

Analysts have been revising down forecasts for 1995 since Holliday

warned of difficult second-half trading conditions when it announced its interims in August.

But the outcome has been much

New car sales (millions)

Motor dealers : at a glance

1979 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 68 89 80 91 92 63 94 95 66

Share price performance over one year (%)

exceptional costs of £3.3m.

Like a string of other chemical companies forced to issue profit warnings recently, Holliday has been hit by rising raw material costs, which it has been

unable to pass on in higher prices. That added £3.9m to last year's costs. With raw materials prices cooling a little, the more working news from the company is the closure of depend in company is the slowing of demand in the US and Continental Europe. The turndown in plastics demand hit sales of high-margin blue pigments, cutting profits by £1.8m.

But the impact of lower demand has been felt right across the group, reducing sales by £6.4m between the first and second halves.

The destocking by customers that is said to have caused the problem is thought to be at an end, but the comny admits that it does not know what the future holds.

The caution may prove to be short-lived, but it could herald a new recession in the chemicals industry.

Holliday is moving to restore its battered reputation in the City by raising

worse than expected, with management efficiency, cutting an unspecified numaccounts pointing to pre-tax profits cut ber of jobs and writing down plant for

The announcement by Lookers of fial underlying profits and the acquisition to the price. But in an inmonths to December, even before net prove insufficient if bleak conditions return to the industry and profits fall 10, say, £14m this year. On a forward multiple of 13. they look fully valued, although at this level they could attract a hidder.

> The market's reaction to yesterday's results from Unitech was gradging in the extreme. Shares in the power supplies group fell 10 p to 499p in spite of a 45 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £23m in the six months to 20 January. Sales were

> also up a healthy 20 per cent at £207m.
> The share dip was largely due to the company's cautious noises about European markets. It said that sales had owed in France while profits in the US fell 13 per cent mostly due to hiccorps with some military contracts. But in spite of these local difficulties Unitech still has

> Japanese power supplies group which contributed £14m of the group's £23m profits. There has been speculation that the company may seek to dispose of part of its stake as Nemic transfers to the full Takyo stock exchange. Unitech does not want to reduce its stake but may have to do so in order to comply with Japanese

The other cloud which is hanging over

But at the trading level, longer term prospects look good. Forecasts suggest that the power supply division could grow profits by around 20 per cent a year for the next couple of years.

The market for power supplies is expected to grow and Unitech is in a strong positing to grab a healthy slice, particuarly in the growing Far East market.

tember's 577p peak. A period of drift may follow until the Electrowatt position is resolved but with analysts forecasting full year profits of £49m, which puts the shares on a forward rating of 16, the shares still

There is a lot riding on Sir Rocco Forte's pledge 10 soldier on sans empire. Not least the continued prosperity of a group of talented stonemasons in Cambridgeshire. Forte had commissioned The

Cambridge Workshop to

its Exclusive Hotel chain -

just before Granada un-

No expense was to be

which were to be flown to

the group's hotels around

the world. Forte's design

people decreed that each

disc should be hewn from

Welsh slate, with Forte's

crown logo lovingly engraved

using the latest computer technology. Finally, a legend reading "Exclusive Hotels by

Forte" was to be carved into

And therein lies the problem. The message does not read Exclusive Hotels by

Granada". Indeed, unless

the dethroned knight buys

there appear to be few cor-

Rocco does buy the hotels

the plates may need to be al-tered to read "Exclusive Ho-

"We were commissioned

to do 21 and so far have completed 11," says an exas-

perated Harry Gray, partner with The Cambridge Work-

shop. We have been paid for half the contract but now

our funds bave been frozen."

Back to the drawing

Still, Sir Rocco will have

plenty of time to mull over

his strategy. American Ex-

press tells me that he will not

it card company's advertising

campaign. "We have no plans to use Forte in the next

be called on to make a further contribution to the cred-

back the Exclusive chain

ustify the £500-a-piece

nameplates. Even if Sir

tels by R. Forte".

the stone by hand and each letter filled in with gold

Unitech still looks good

plenty of growth ahead.

The oddity of this company is its 50.6 per cent stake in Nemic Lambda, a

Unitech is the 20 per cent stake held by Electrowatt, a rival electronics group. Elec-trowatt is currently involved in the purchase of Landis & Gyr and the Unitech stake may be sold to reduce gearing. The possibility of this stock coming on to the market at below the current price is casting a pall over the shares.

After a strong run up from 124p in 1992 the shares have dipped since last Sep-



Simon Pincombe CITY DIARA

The final European intervarsity debate at King's Cullege Lon don - that this house believes Europe is all mouth and no trousers - ended in a humiliating defeat for the island race. Not only was the motion defeated but the prize categories had to be altered after a scintillating piece of neatury from a Dutchman. The judges, including Lord Archer (above), were forced to rethink the somewhat condescending prize of "best Continental speaker" after the indubitably Continental Michael Boots of Leiden University walked aff with the prize for best speaker. The hastily renamed prize for "best non-Continental speaker" went to Matt Guy of Oxford University.

quarter," assures a spokes-woman. Talk about kicking a man when he's down.

After 35 years Anglia, the publication that promoted the British way of life to the Russians in their own language, is about to die an ignominious death at the hands of Foreign Office cuts. Mandarins claim that the rag - which has often been used as a promotional tool for British business - is no longer relevant in a modern

Russian economy dominated by a vodka-swilling mafia. Besides, British business couldn't give a double-headed rouble whether it survived or perished, one mandarin told me (in more diplomatic

anguage, of course).
"When it was established it was difficult to get anything open or unhiased into the Soviet press," said a Foreign Office man. "Now there is a proliferation of news."
But, be admitted, the pressing reason for the paper's closure was the budget review demanded by HM Treasury.

Heated debate north of the border over just who has run the worst-performing Tessa (the tax-exempt special savings schemes that have just matured).

Industry statistics show the bonour to rest with Royal Bank of Scotland, However, a reader assures us that the mantle truly to belongs to Bank of Scotland, which has so far avoided ridicule by not publishing its performance figures.

Either way, the big Scot-tish banks did not appear to get the hang of this Tessa business. Clydesdale also produced a bit of a dog.

Moody's ponders

DIANE COYLE Economics Correspondent

American financial markets were unnerved yeslerday by the news that Moody's credit rating agency might downgrade a chunk of the US govern-ment's Treasury bonds. The henchmark 30-year Treasury bond lost nearly a point, while the Dow Jones industrials index was nearly 13 points lower at 5,230,20 by late morning.

Moody's vice-president, Vincent Truglia, said the growing danger of a default on its debt hy the Federal government meant there was a 50 per cent chance that the agency would cut the triple-A rating of \$387bn worth of Treasury bonds falling due on 29 February and I April It is the first time Moody's has

ever taken any negative rating action on US Treasury bonds. Mr Truglia said Moody's had taken the Treasury at its word when it said no special measures would be available to make would be available to make wards solving the deht ceiling payments on its debt if Congress problem," be said. did not extend the government's \$4,900bn debt ceiling by 1 March.

The move follows a statement by Standard & Poor's earlier this week that even a temporary default would take Treasury bonds bonds outstanding is \$2,300bn.

don-based rating agency IBCA placed the US on a "rating

watch". Financial markets do not believe the US will default, and bave been concentrating more on the likelihood of an interest rate cut next week. However. Moody's unprecedented action had politicians rushing out their reassurances.

Robert Rubin, Treasury Secretary, said he was confident Congress would pass a straightforward extension of the debt ceiling. "I'm absolutely confident that this nation will not default on its obligations for the first time in its history." He added that Moody's had helped focus attention on the problem.

Newt Gingrich, Republican Speaker of the House of Rep-resentatives, said he had had a "good talk" with President Bill Clinton. "We took a hig step to-

The debt ceiling has been the Republicans' lever for trying to extract concessions in negotiations over how to balance the Federal Government deficit. The total amount of Treasury

Union calls for defence US downgrade from their current triple-A to links to repel US invasion the past 20 weeks, increases by about their forceasts by about their forceasts by about their forceasts by about the past 20 weeks, increases by about the past 20 weeks and 20

RUSSELL HOTTEN

The European Commission yesterday called on governments to forge closer defence links to protect the arms industry against increasing domination by US companies.

In a week when Fokker's financial crisis underlined the

problems facing Europe, the EC report warned an independent arms industry can only survive through closer co-operation. Martin Bangemann, the Eu-

ropean Industry Commissioner, called for a common approach to defence procurement, import duties, and a buy-Europe policy to protect thousands of jobs. Such comments will cause concern in the US, the main ex-

porter of defence equipment to Europe. But Mr Bangemann said: "We want to improve our competitive situation. If the United States doesn't like it -I cannot change that." But Mr Bangemann linked his call for closer co-operation with the eventual need for a

common European defence and security policy, something that will be resisted by many in the British government. The UK's decision last year to buy American-made Cohra helicopters rather than the Eu-

ropean-made Tiger, was greeted with particular concern by other EU members. Between 1988 and 1992, EU nations imported almost \$18bn (£12bn) worth of arms from the US while exporting less than \$1hn back. And between 1984 and 1992, the EU's industry shed 600,000 of its 1.6 million jobs, mostly in France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Sweden. At

\$65bn, the EU's defence in-

dustrial output is less than half



Tiger, tiger: Britain's decision last year to buy American-made Cobra helicopters rather than the European Tiger (above) caused particular consternation in the EU

Mr Bangemann proposed hindered by national political to unbridled competition would ending arms-related customs considerations. duties hetween EU member states, with the possibility of increasing those on US imports to the maximum rate allowed by the World Trade Organisation. Joint procurement on some European defence projects would save EU budgets as

Bangemann believes. But with defence industries so intertwined with national ambitions, co-operation on joint ventures is rare.

much as \$14.5bn a year, Mr

although further integration is ply throwing the market open space and France's Matra.

At last year's CBI conference, Dick Evans, chief executive of BAc, spoke of the urgent need for deeper co-operation and rationalisation to meet the US

The speecb was warmly welcomed by the Defence Procurement Minister, James Arbuthnot, who urged the Goverament to co-operate with its European partners to bring about change.

Mr Evans said: "With the Eu-British Aerospace and GEC ropean defence industry in its such as a proposed missiles operate cross-border alliances. current fragmented state, simmerger between British Aerospace

US companies to slice their way into Europe." Eurofighter 2000, the largest European collaborative arms project, recently moved a step closer to production, but it is far from airborne.

Companies from Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain cooperate on Eurofighter, but it has been plagued by cost overruns and technology problems.

But it may help smooth the way to further integration between European industries, current fragmented state, sim- merger between British Aero-

IN BRIEF

Sales on the rise at Burton

Burton said it had shrugged off fragile consumer confidence over the past 20 weeks, increasing sales 5.9 per cent. Analysis upgraded their forecasts by about £8m to £128m, unworried by a small de-

Tugenhadt takes chair at Blue Circle

Abbey National's chairman, Lord Tugenhadt, is poised to succeed Sir Peter Walters as non-executive chairman of Blue Circle. Lord Tugenhadt, who is also a non-executive director of BOC and Eurotunnel, will succeed Sir Peter after May's annual meeting.

Midland unloads 3i stake

Midland Bank has offloaded its remaining 2.6 per cent stake in the venture capitalist 3i. James Capel placed 30 million shares at 404p. Midland reduced its 3i stake from 5.3 to 2.6 per cent as part of last June's £440m share sale by four hank shareholders. Lloyds and the Bank of England sold their stakes, while Barclays lowered its holding from 5.5 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

Heald moves in at Hepworth

Hepworth has appointed Malcolm Heald as finance director. He bad previously held the same position at First Choice, the holi-day company, and replaces Robert Lambourne. Before joining First Choice, Mr Heald was with Jacques Vert and Kingfisher's property subsidiary, Chartwell Land.

Cookson buys rest of Alpha

The diversified industrial group Cookson has bought the remaining 50 per cent in Alpha Metals of Japan from its joint venture partner, Electroplating Engineers, of Japan for \$1bn. The venture, set up in 1989, supplies solder paste, chemicals and laser-cut stencils to Japan's hig electronic manufacturers.

Barbour Index profits slip

Profits at Barbour Index slipped 18 per cent as the information group incurred higher new service development costs. They fell from £1.9m to £1.57m. Barbour warned that the increased costs might not be matched by revenue and full-year results would therefore "not be materially different" from last year's £2m. Analysts had expected about £3m and the shares fell 16p to 295p.

Sales heat up at Kenwood

Third-quarter sales at Kenwood Appliances are well up on last year, the domestic appliance group has announced. UK operations were the star performer in the period, with sales 24 per cent higher, but the two Italian husinesses acquired in November 1993 have also done well. Excluding the Italian operations, Kenwood's sales worldwide were ahead by 16 pct, including the 24 per cent uplift in the UK. Kenwood's shares jumped 12p to 270p yesterday.

Looking up at Danka

Dan Doyle, chief executive of Danka, said he was pleased with third-quarter profits at the photocopier supplier, which showed growth of 60 per cent before exceptional severance costs. After

	Terrover £	Pre-tax £	eps .	Dividend
Rarbour Index (f)	6.80m (6.58m)	1.57m (1.93m)	6.2p (7.7p)	3.0p (2.85p)
Cherchbury Esta (1)	2.11m (1.80m)	1.64m (1.49m)	12.5p (11.4p)	1वी (-)
Daniel Bos Sys (Q3)	214m (129m)	10.2m (11.5m)	3.6p (4.2p)	- [-]
Goodlead Group (1)	16.3m (13.5m)	0.45m (0.08m)	0.8p (-0.1p)	0.05p (nii)
Jasoba (f)	3.01m (2.42m)	0.15m (0.09m)	3.75p (2.21p)	nit (nil)
Lookers (F)	130m (151m)	6.4rl (7.9m)	15.2p (19p)	7.9p (7.5p)
ML Laboratories (F)	1.14m (0.81m)	-3.4m (-2.27m)	-2.5p (-1.7p)	mil (-)
Unitech (I)	207.m (173m)	22.9m (15.8m)	14.6p (11p)	2.96p (2.57p)
(i) boow CL	3.65m (3.69m)	0.23m (0.30m)	1.8p (2.3p)	0.75p (0.75p)
Wiggles (I)	2.06m (1.64m)	0.37m (0.17m)	0.074p (0.035p)	nii (nii)
Witan Investment (F)	· (•)	31.5m (31.3m)	6.76p (6.65p)	6 45p (6.1p)

JD Wood confident of housing recovery

NIC CICUTTI

that of the US.

John D Wood & Co, the up-market estate agent, yesterday voiced "quiet confidence" in the likelihood of a housing market recovery, despite a 23 per cent fall in profits for the six months

to the end of October last year. The company announced that its pre-tax profits dropped to £231,000 from £301,000 in the same period in 1994. The fall came despite virtually unchanged turnover of £3.65m over that period.

risen slightly, which clearly affected our profits. But we feel these costs will be absorbed over the full year, so that overall extends the second of agencies, and the second out of the secon penditure should fall. As for the nine in the central London housing market has been lam-

on the Government. continuing to come down, there Kensington, Knightsbridge and if correctly priced."

increasing numbers of people, down and our expenditure has including Halifax, are talking

the South-East, generally saw a hasted in the wake of an attack buoyant market, he added. "Demand for property in the uation where interest rates are central London, in particular

George Pope, joint-chairman of JD Wood, said: "Our ership rather than renting and turnover has gone a little bit increasing numbers of people, joint-chairman. "Our lettings and management department has again

produced a near 20 per cent increase in turnover. "In the country, movement future, in the past year the area plus seven others mainly in has been restricted by the lack of property coming onto the market as potential vendors

await better circumstances. We are now looking at a sit- better streets and squares of Nonetheless, well-situated period houses continue to sell



Door-

to-door

Abu

Dhabi.

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100 3734.2 -24.0 FT-SE 250

FT-SE 350

Gilts Index

96.1

4086.7 -0.2

1854.5 -9.4

SEAQ VOLUME

1.01bn shares,

35,387 bargains

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

British Biotech

share price, perice

-0.05

terday saw Cantab Pharmaceuticals rocket 85p to 530p.

Cortecs International sprint

33p to 270p, and Scotia Holdings climb 19p to 603p. ML Laboratories, traded oo the USM, increased 46p to 457p

on a £25m placing to fund de-velopment of its Icodial dial-ysis solution.

Elsewhere, Bluebird Toys

<u>.</u> ---≥•

Fund manager MAM could find itself a bid target

Are the tables about to be turned on Mercury Asset Management? The fund management group, is widely tipped as the hidder. NatWest shares dropped 7p to 667p. ment group, which played a pivotal role in the bitter bid bat-tle between Granada and Forte, may find itself on the end of a bid, according to rumours circulating around the market yesterday.

Shares in MAM moved notable in the control of the

tably in the opposite direction to the rest of the market and closed the session sporting a rise of 15p to 883p. That price values the company, which was last upon displaced from Warlast year demerged from War-burg wheo the merchant bank

was bought by Swiss Bank Cor-poration, at more than £1.6bn. Turnover in the tightly held MAM stock was quile chunky at almost 3 million, amid gos-sip that a bid pitched in excess

of £10 a share was on the way. The cash-rich Natinnal Westminster Bank, which ap-parently recently ran its slide rule over the Gartmore fund

shares dropped 7p to 667p.
Royal Bank of Scotland, a penny firmer at 589p, was also mentioned by some dealers as having looked at buying MAM, which ranks second only to Prudential in terms of funds under managemeon. At the last count MAM's funds were

put at £72bn. Some analysts reckon that MAM, already knee-deep in cash, made more than £100m out of the Granada bid. Its anoual results for 1994 showed a cash balance of £162m and only £26m of short-term debts.

Separately, MAM has boosted its holding in Thorn EMI, which is soon to announce its demerger plans, by almost a full percentage point to 12 per cent. Thorn, 3p higher in early trading, finished 4p

down at £16.39p. For the rest of the market, the session was one to forget.

MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

Share prices among the tead-ers lumbled with the lemper-ature in London. The FT-SE 100 share index lost all of the previous day's gains - which look it to a record - with a 24-point drop to 3,734.2.

Investors were quite content to pocket profits, and brokers took plenty of commission fees from more than 35,000 deals that resulted in a very high 1 bil-lion shares changing hands.

A large part of the day's trading came courtesy of some special situations. More than 6 per cent of the session's total business was in BAA, steady at 496p, as the Government placed its remaining stake. Total vol-ume in BAA was 63 million.

Shares in Forte, which lost its takeover battle earlier this week. were also heavily traded, with 20 million going through the books. Granada, which could end up selling hotels back to Sir Rocco Forte, fell 3p to 704p. Second-line stocks, buoyed

by yet more takeover rumours, fared considerably better than the teaders. The FT-SE 250 in-dex fell just 0.2 of a point to 4,086.7 and the FT All-Share rose 0.5 per cent to 1,837.17.

Takeover speculation contin-ued to run rife in the breweries, pubs and restaurants sector. Guessing what Whithread, 0.5p easier at 690p, will buy has be-come an established game. A further high was set by JD

Wetherspoon, the pub company, which added 7p to 741p. Regent Inns, also rumoured as a possible target for Whit-bread, hit a peak 737p with a rise of Sp.

Falls were recorded by some share prices that have been buoyed recently by takeover ru-mours. This group inctuded Vaux Group, down 2p 296p, MyKinda Town, off a penny to

was lifted by the Mattel takeover move for Hasbro, and closed 15p better at 339p. Hasbro has a 7 per cent stake in Bluebird, which in turn has MyKinda Town, off a penny to 131p, and Group Chez Gerard, which lost 2p to 238p.

The market's appetite for biotech stocks remained insatiable – particularly for British Biotech, which spurted 70p to £22.38p. The shares traded at 500p last autumn. many of its toys distributed by Mattel Maiden results from Jasmin, traded on AIM, went down well. The shares, floated at 88p last November, climbed 12p to

Ian White, analyst at Robert Fleming, reiterated his huy recommendation for British Biotech. There was talk that the shares could run up consider-

Among the main fallers were Standard Chartered, down 26.5p to 636p, as the company issued a statement saying it ably higher, and even top £30. The hiolech sector is now setting fresh highs on a daily basis. Other movements yesknew of no reason for its recent strong share price performance.

103p.

TAKING STOCK

☐ There was strong demand for shares in Aegis, op 1.5p to 43p. Morgan Grenfell Asset Management was said to be a big buyer of stock in the media-buying agency, which has a lengthy blue-chip client list featuring Kellogg's, Levi's, and Asda. The Euro-

pean-wide \$200m-billing account of Philips Electronics is set to join the fold. Almost 13 million Aegis shares were dealt, equal to 1.6 per cent of the total in issue.

🌅 Keep a watch nn Manx & Overseas, traded nn AIM. The price yesterday rose 2p to 21p as buyers appeared on the scene. There are rumours that the company,

headed by Geoffrey Maddrell, furmer head of Tootal and ProShare, may be look-ing separately to float Enterprise, the Internet access provider in which it has a 30 per cent stake.

High Lees Stock Price Cag Vid	1986/98 Stock Price Ong Yie P(Cooler 1995/96 High Low Stock Price Ong Yie P(Cooler 1995/96 High Low Stock Price Ong Yie P(Cooler 1995/96 High Low Stock Price Ong 1995/96 High Low 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96 1995/96	Share Price Data Share Price Data Share Price Data Share Price Data Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is last year's divident, grossed up by a per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by lest year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. The price Data Pr
Banks, Retail 58 Norman 18 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	22 35 Manually 27 2 1 445 Cm 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	The Independent Index The Index allows you to access reel-time effice prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial and the search of the search share. To access the lettest are 22 435 financial reports dial 0881 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.
30° 21° API Arms D0° 27° 42° 13 5 65 65 66 66 67° 12 20° 1	36' 80' TA Person 28'+' 42 . 4292 52 34 ACCCCCCCCC 53 T1	13 82 4587 UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 39 UK Company News 02 Wat St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40 Poreign Exchange 02 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41 Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The 1990 Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333.
350 200 Libra 192 5 430 61 7 Ritty 1 17 st E21 Fytractive Industries 27 28 Immedia 20 4 50 201	20 27 TH Seri Cos 325 24 425 5 40 Anther 52 ** 35 ** 11 TH Seri Cos 325 24 4 5 ** 44 5 ** 45 5 ** 45 5 ** 45 5 ** 45 5 ** 45 5 ** 5 5 5 ** 5 5 5 ** 5 5 5 ** 5 5 5 ** 5	For assistance, cell our helpline 0171 873 4375 (930am - 530pm). 1 205 Calls cost 39p per minute (cheep rate), and 48p at all other times. Cell cherges include 1 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
897 54 NetWest 607 7 1 30 3403 503 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 5	98 356 Aritage 45 +14 124 540 58 38 184 184 172 184 184 184 184 184 184 184 184 184 184	34 31 6200000 6TR 7000000 Ede & Lyle 920000 Plidrigion 7000000
407 1998	61 30 Sunday 30 3 1 79 307 Oil, integrated 51 50 307 Oil, integrated 52 305 Oil, integrated 52 305 Oil, integrated 52 305 Oil o	FT-SE 1.00 Index hour by hour 14.00 37500 down 8.2 15.00 37500 down 8.2 15.00 37500 down 8.2 15.00 37500 down 8.2 15.00 37500 down 18.7
25 25 Hearth 25 25 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	55 20 Estructure 221 +1 53 193 281 615 53 4 ktol Corp 505 1 kt	3 95 - 56 Lard Stees 80 - 4 9 97 300 18 75 Panca 62 1 1 5 623 304 10 20 30 Lard Stees 82 - 4 9 97 300 18 75 Panca 62 1 1 5 623 304 10 20 30 Lard Stees 82 - 4 9 327 3050 73 5 Panca 62 1 1 3 68 574 10 20 30
30 80 Years Bloom S00 + 1 13 223 4535 201 + 13 2	75 669 Edn Folklyn 70 98 99 Ecc 95 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55	the same of the sa
23 Academ 50 - 20 - 442 950 501 South Welea BEG 4 45 85 4894 Food Manufacturers 105 50 Acrate 30 - 35 45 220 881 501 South Welea BEG 4 45 85 4894 Food Manufacturers 20 Acrate 30 - 35 45 220 881 501 Southern 70 Acrate 20 85 48 881 501 Southern 70 Acrate 30	29) 21 Loh Rahw 27 379 22 Loh Rahw 27 379 25 Loh Rahw 27 379 25 Loh Rahw 27 38 78 Loh Rahw 28 38 78 Loh Rahw 28 38 78 Loh Rahw 28 38 88 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	n 250 386 55 57 Southerd P 6 34 76 488 Teleconsummications 8 95 300 10 68 300 10 69 30
20 14 Bree 67 - 1529 304 229 801 3 84 20 327 527 330 200 Carbury-Software 3 3 27 33 200 Carbury-Software 3 3 27 33 200 Carbury-Software 3 3 20 Carbury-Software 3 3 20 Carbury-Software 3 20 200 Carbury-Software 3 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	2050 150 Perpetual 2040 42	8 95 3946 10 68 SpaStopo 60 18 29 3945 45 62 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
200 15 Continue 71 3	y pelfers, because it has 50 35 Bina Arms 57 1 am anywhere else in the world. 59 9 Qong Pina 91 9	25 52 988 78 455 991 995 991 12 12 15 1000 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15
287 80 Long 12 59 2 44 34 302 55 50 Eurohem 52 14 1 7 220 2205 30 60 Poling 16 1 7 1 10 3385 For ear 1996 brockers, call Bermud 283 188 Long 14 2 42 34 34 32 163 35 Februs Co. 55 2 16 28 420 78 27 58 38 14 43 19 74 421 19 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	Tourism on 01753 517 517 150 66 Gurney 53	5 87 256 257 110 George 722 +2 44 2588 120 Control 10 43 +6 45 12 257 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120
66 9 Manipa Stude 61 13 407 38 W Indias 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	of place on Earth rek Bond, London SW11 3ty. 25	Test and the second sec
23 6 Borotherscool 11 U - 45 G289 57 FF Profiles 56 - 25 173 575 590 363 289 Despite 580 - 15 268 315 590 590 590 77 Try Group 12 - 52 187 605 590 69 Profiles 56 - 25 173 575 200 500 500 Contray Hosp 245 - 45 28 4708 1985/245 500 27 Mary Ho	1596/98 1596	Corporation
## 15 - 20 - 20 - 20 - 20 - 20 - 20 - 20 - 2	75 + 2	7 22 499 26 27 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
## 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	20 Pagal I-22d 44 e . 20 F52 70 47 54 F54 F54 F55 60 4 2 7 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	7 20 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
25 24 Improved to 1 65 10 207 10 02 Account to 2 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	20 Wenter 333 +6 7 644 352 251 Frequent 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	0 94 2555 72 800 61.44 805 42 25 95 55 200 67 18 Februs 107 8 30 3550 67 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18
## 10 23 Marriads 25 - 40 10 200	### A Property ### A Property	3 55 4078 459 222 Nost 454 +7 25 250 3685 351 227 Cosen Route 377 -44 225 356 5 251 445 45 25 250 1577 457 250 1577 457 25
10 87 Thor 10 8 62 400 26 30 Cook Man 20 47 2 222 37 48 Gen Acct 667 5 5 36 227 37 56 Gon Am Bert 104 42 222 37 57 56 Gon Am Bert 104 42 222 37 56 Gon Am Bert 104 42 222 37 57 56 Gon Am Bert 104 42 222 37 57 56 Gon Am Bert 104 42 222 37 57 56 Gon Am Bert 104 42 222 37 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57	10	Septimber 20 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19
27 144 155 27 448 15 5 8 DOBORD PA 27 55 485 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 144 12 507 15 145 17 145	## COLORS TO 1 200 60 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	8 204 405 60 300 Barrent?) 51 - 30 60 2005 (80 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60
28 SF 1	300 Festion 440 1 287 40 5 5 5 5 5 5 79 35 27 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 79 35 27 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	Color Colo
33 St. Vale Charts 55 - 2 4 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10		28 277 Chus 23 1 25 18 164
Distributors 57 87 AB later 57 2 26 4408 56 40 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	1905/95 Rad Inder: 1995/96 Low Stack Price Chg	Second
To see Appears 13 - 7 To 25	TEST ON EAR MET - A THE TOTAL PARTY AND THE	753 C34 287 65 Footing 55 - 52 C30 255 Paristy Grap Storm 43 C32 C32 C32 C32 C32 C32 C32 C32 C32 C3
Distributors 57 87 AB Law 57 - 22 84 400 46 24 Abin 79 - 22 22 325 57 29 Act	Text	Box Corporate See 99 10 28 195 60th 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1

unit trusts/data

unit trusts/data	Service Eychange Rates
Stack Sail Buy Yild Stock Sail Suy Yild Stock Sail S	STERLING Country Spot 1 month 3 months Spot 1 month 3 months
Griding Special Total Special Control	186 196 11-9 300 1866 0-3 186600
	Salgham 4597 13-10 35-20 5709 90-40 170-20 12200 Decitors 86484 160-117 434-341 15709 34-32 97-95 14200
Weight in face Color Col	Salgkam 45.57 3-7 35.79 50.40 77-22 5.57 173-72 1457 30.58 157.95 90.40 77-23 35.57 157.95 90.40 77-25 157.95 90.40 77-25 157.95 90.40 77-25 157.95 90.40 77-25 157.95 90.40 77-25 157.95 90.40 77-25 157.95 90.40
If General Acc	Hong Kong, 11271 87-55 179-164 22575 4-16 50-80 17045 188-90 10745 18897 22587 22-37 67-112 37505 2-7 9-16 25405 199536 18890 10745 18897 41-30 173-88 199536
Control Control Control Co	OTHER SPOT RATES Outlier Dollar Country Sterling Dollar
Control Cont	Argentine 1550 0.9899 Negeria 150.762 0.3850 Omai: 0.5834 0.3850 Omai: 0.5834 0.3550 Omai: 0.5834 0.3253 O
Copies Reserve Copi	Column
Copied Improve Act March	Kinetat 0.4547 0.3007 Note: Forward select casted duple to the are w a silectant fauthered from spot rates); strong casted tops to high use w a promisen factor to spot rates). "Dother rates quoted as recurricals. For the latest to high use w a promisen factor to spot rates). "Dother rates quoted as recurricals. For the latest to the tasted to they are with the success of the cast of the port of the other times. Tourist Rates
Column C	E Buys
Funch for 5t Acc. 286 200 627 150 628 150 500 627 150 628 150	Selglum(Framos) 4-45000 Circles(Plazarine) 15000 Spalm(Francis) 15000 Spalm(Franci
Appendix Column	Interest Rates UK Garmeny Discount 300% Prime 8.79% Discount 0.50% Discount 0.50
Belletinoid 7670 689 6CA UK Growth Acc 202 2060 137 UK Growth Acc 202 2060 137 UK Growth Acc 202 2060 137 UK Growth Acc 202 207 407 UK Growth Acc 202 202 202 UK Growth Acc 202 202 UK Growt	Presce Intervention 550% Conside Prime 775% Spain Decount 900% Decount 9.73% Spain Nethertands Decount 0.73% Sweden 925% Sweden 150% Swede
	Bond Yields Country Ser visid % 10 or yield % Country Ser yield % 10 or yield %
Arms Spec Sto 1958 2059 1958 2059 1958	UK 6% 669 3776 259 5 505 567 5 561 107.5 899 1025 944 US 575 559 546 307 869 1025 944 US 575 567 559 567 567 569 1025 567 567 567 567 567 567 567 567 567 56
Active 1989 50-70 1 200	Money Market Rates
Column	Interbank Gradult 7 Dey 1 Month 3 Month 6 Month 1 Test 1 Test
DC America 2015 Small City Street City Str	Liffe Financial Futures
Scale American SALE	Contract Sattlement price for day EntConts Open Interest
## PSP Pack ### 155 012 ### 15	3M Starting (Mar 96) 9289 9392 9387 7576 9757 — (Arn 96) 9422 9417 9410 12193 7599 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Part Copyright	E.C.U. (Alar 96) 95.36 95.40 95.34 2066 8530 (Alar 96) 95.54 95.80 95.54 1094 4569 (Burd 5Fr (Alar 96) 96.24 96.33 96.23 562.5 (23078 FF-\$E 200 (Nam 98) 37480 37790 37360 10184 66-407 (FF-\$E 250 (Man 98) 47000 0 3007 (Burden West 98) 90.47 90.80 90.45 18305 49427
Column	Liffe FT-SE Index Option Settlement price: 3734.0 closing offer price Call/Put Series 3850 3700 3750 3800 Total/Put
Property Trushs 1998 1998 1998 1998 1999 199	Fishruary 102/12 65/24 34/45 16/76 March 125/31 90/47 60/68 38/96 April 138/53 108/72 80/94 57/121 May 155/66 124/84 97/108 74/36
Figure Section Secti	Commodities INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange Silondo Cost 2 with Volume LAE Stocks chg
Fourth County Fourth Count	Aku MG 5425-435 571-72 33956 8,47025 + 13675 Aku Alloy 1365-76 1400-05 1413 65040 + 1240 Copper A 2549-53 2497-96 55620 346575 + 4725 Lead 733,5-34.5 7265-27 5330 119625 5850 Nickel 8190-8290 6290-6300 9482 41544 246 Th 6305-5 6340-60 4442 11550 130
hand a Can dead of the Control of th	Zinc 1041-42 1061-82 42648 658600 Sentenger Consequent 103 50m 5h Short volumes & change in terminal sentenge mater. 1503 14768 108.78 as at Thursday 25 January PRECIOUS METALS grad fix fox 9 £ Colons 5 £ 5 £
American Control 1938 1256 00 North American Control 1938 1256 00 North American Control 1938 1257 000 North American Cont	Pletfin/lm 42100 27780 Britannia 421 279 Krughanda 397/409 263/71 Peliadium 12900 85:00 Britannia 502 208 138 50% 94/98 62/65 Stiver spot 560 371 Britannia 250 108 70 Mobiles 45/30 275/85 Gold Gufh 407/00 298/70 Britannia 10 ex 51 34 Maple Leaf 409/21 270/79
Europe of Next 2004 1907 2007 1907 2007 1907 2007 1907 2007	AGRICULTURAL Cocos Coffee Barley Politices Politices LCE Dinem LCE Stanne LCE Stanne LCE Ditem ADA Gibi100kg Max 908 Jan 1945 Jan 1945 Mar 20000 Acr 282 May 908 Mar 4955 Mar 1925 Apr 1825 Apr 293 Jaty 953 Mar 4955 Mar 1920 Abr 293 Jaty 953 Mar 4557 May 19200 Abr 293
North Trail No. No	July 953 May 4257 May 10200 May 21000 Jun 30.0 You 5,065 Yok 11,968 Yok 20 Yok 37 Yok 299 Walle Sugar Free Sugar Free Sugar Wheel Wheel 2007 Free 1200 Free 1200 Free 1200 Free 1200 Free 1200 Jun 220 Jun 2205 File See 1200 Jun 2205 Jun 2205 File See 1
Owners Grant County 72.00 73.77 Grant County 7	Mary 290.20 May 11.31 Feb 1455 Mary 124.50 Mary 280.50-357.25 297.25 Aug 393.70 July 11.31 Vot 900 May 280.50 May 280.00-588.75 396.75 Yol: 1,833 Yol: 0 Index 1528 Vol: 578 Jul 357.50-354.55 354.00 Other Softs (Agricultural)
Do Accurate 1975 1970	Feb Mar Copra (1) Storme 1870 Feb Bunicower Ole Shorme 1950 Feb Wood Acentrol (6) Storme 1950 Feb Bunicower Ole Shorme 1950 Feb Wood Acentrol (6) Feb Bunicower Ole Shorme 1950 Feb Wood Acentrol (6) Feb Rupeeeed Oli Fly100ig 895 Feb Fub Graundau Oli Shorme 1945 Origin: Shorte 1950 Storme 1950 Volgin: Shorte 1950 Volgin: Short
Do Microssis Maj. 7 1773 1775	ENERGY Grant Crude (S/barrel) Gesoil (S/barrel) WTI Products † (S/barrel) BPE 5.30pas *sig Yr ago BPE share *sig Bpm Spot CF North West Europe Max 1674 4025 1967 Feb 15525 +000 Max 1760 Leaded Gesoilne 364/167
Column Superior Column Superior Column Superior Column Colu	Apr 1640 -018 1855 Mar 15275 -100 Apr 1750 Naphthie 168/168 Many 1620 -016 1851 Apr 150.50 -125 Many 1750 5C Gueck 190/162 Vol. 23,845 Indiano 18,91 Vol. 14,643 June 1730 Heavy Fuel OI 35/07 since 5.70pm preduct day, "ser ago prices show everage for view. Source, 1006-London OII Apports, 185m prices
Contract	COMMODITY INDICES *GSCI Indices Base date +Spot %Day Chg Dec 31st %Trip d chg Year ago % Yr chg Indice 970=90 9528 +0.36 20350 -255 1759 +5.75 Agricultural 970=900 27349 +0.00 31275 -0.01 2422 +35.42 Energy 1623=900 6257 +0.00 71.51 1222 58.00 +10.01
Do Group Free Part 150	Energy 1983=100 (2287 +0.90 7.151 -1242 98.00 +10.04 hocket liketes 1977-1900 98.551 +0.95 71.531 -1242 98.00 +10.04 hocket 1970-1900 773.29 -0.99 182.21 5.05 109.45 -7.05 Practicus Metals 1973-1900 573.47 -0.24 488.96 +4.81 489.85 +5.50 Social Guidanum, Sacha & Co. *1850 is a traditional and servicement of Guidanum,
Do European State (Sum Units 2 1907 Seales (Su	100 Largest Insurance Funds State Bid Mid Offer State Bid Mid Offer Abbey Like Managed Ser 7655 7042 Landon Like Mayed 800500
Co. Justimises Growth 4872 999 000 000 closed with Accordance 202 9930 000 000 000 closed with Accordance 202 99300 00	Abbuy Ule Marraged Sr
Mocom Units 100 10	ALA ESL DRI SI
Account Unite; MAJ 5000 1987 Account Control C	Constitution Managed 64 (2014 49),27 February Managed 51 4689 4947 Constitution Managed 64 2255 2500 Relative Managed 4658 4935
Common Printial, 97.22 10,182 da.6 P. Surfry Deposit 604 1004 1004 1004 1004 1004 1004 1004	Fingle Ster Equily Managed 2706 2948 Same & Prosper Enterroad Invest, 8533 9336 Englis Ster Managed 2706 2945 Scotlish Annicatal Managed 5506 5586 PP Managed 7066 8155 Scotlish Capitath Managed 2059 3084 PRICIAN Management Manager 8469 5926 Scotlish Call Management 2055 3084 PRICIAN Management Manager 8469 5926 Scotlish Call Management 2055 3084
Pattic Formbin 1902 12:33 Lid Uit Protest 8 Glock 91:44 1902 12:45 Lid Uit Protest 8 Glock 91:45 1903 1903 1903 1903 1903 1903 1903 1903	Gan Harmond 3-26 3220 Standa Belonged 4229 4555
Company County Co	His Server Veryet Nation Growth 2009 2009 2005 Sun Allercor Ph Wheth Assure 77003 8109
Pad Sm Cod Acc. 304 3077 152 GSM 2040shi Investment Myrr Lat 127 GSM 2040 Help President Size 204 305 GSM 2040 Help Presid	Lourestan Managed 53 8049 8087 1950 Managed 2009
Commanded Unifor Dural Management Provides PPT Fundes) Provides Portifice PPT Fundes) Provides P	Unsch Nd Sprodge 2 4362 4624 Worder's Head Mind 1965 1965 1965 1965 1965 1965 1965 1965

Waugh

brothers

Celestial challenge for champion Minister an interesting Out- potential of their horses. Main statement and out- potential of their horses. Main statement and out- potential of their horses and out- potential of their horses.

En Exchange Rates

mant Cate,

ಆಯ ೩೪ ನ

The short-term plans for many of the country's best jumpers may be frustrated by the latest cold snap, but one trainer at least is playing a longer game. Kim Bailey, who completed the Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup double at last year's Chettenham Festival, said yesterday that Alderbrook, the

when two chips of bone were re-moved from his knee last May. Last season, Bailey famously saddled Alderhrook to win the timber championship after

champion hurdler, is on course

to defend his title, a possibility

which looked distinctly remote

Alderbrook's chance at Chel-tenham became clear after suc-cess in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton in February, and that race is again the target for his seasonal reappearance. He is in full work at present

and we are ahead of schedule compared with last year as we have had him a lot longer," Bailey said yesterday. "I couldn't be more happy with him." The trainer is also considering his options if the cold weather per-sists. If for some reason he had to miss the Kingwell, and he had to go straight to Cheltenham, it would not be a worry," he said. Bailey also reports Master

Oats, the Gold Cup winner, to be in excellent health as he prepares for the Hennessy Gold just nine weeks in his care. A
Group Two winner on the Flat.

Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday week. "He's in good form Cup at Leopardstown on Sun-

At Ayr, due to race tomor-

which has lost its last two meet-would hasten an inspection.

Jamie Osborne will ride." Cold weather robbed Tony McCov of the chance to record the fastest century in National Hunt history before Christmas, but with similar conditions imminent, he was taking no

chances at Wincanton yesterday. McCoy rode the first two winners at the West Country track, and in the process added another clipping to his now hulging file of praise. "Let's be fair, you can't find a better jockev for one that has to be pushed out." Milton Bradley said after watching McCoy cajole Zingibar to victory in the opening race. "Tony said the horse was having second thoughts going

the ground was frost-free yes-

down the far side, but once he hit the front he was okay." Half an hour later, McCoy Frost threat to Doncaster and Lingfield

by Samlee, and in particular the horse's attempt to separate the 13th fence from its foundations, to go clear on the run-in and win by five lengths. Tony Dobbio's fortunes have not been quite as exceptional as RICHARD EDMONDSON

McCoy's this season, not least when he was jocked off the ride on One Man, the Gold Cup favourite, by Richard Dunwoody. Dobbin's name was being inked in rather than rubbed out yesterday, however, fol-

NAP: Modest Hope

(Southwell 12.40) NB: Mr Moriarty

(Southwell 1.30)

by Peter Hobbs, now retired, when second in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle two months ago. "Chief Minister goes to Cheltenham with live each-way prospects and I've had a decent bet on him at 50-1," Graham Shiel, his owner, said yesterday. "He's won six hurdle races since I bought him two years ago and he's come back fresh and well from his winter break." Punters who share Shiet's optimism will find bookies offering 40-1 about Chief

Minister for Chellenham. Alderbrook's win last March, and the £170,000 on offer for this year's Champion, awoke many owners of useful Flat

DONCASTER

Lochnagrain 4.10 Take Cover

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BAYS: None,

SIS PACENG

Minister, an interesting Out-sider, in the Champion Hurdle. Chief Minister was partnered yesterday when he said that Celestial Key, a classy Flat hand-icapper, will make his hurdling debut in early March before a possible trip to the Festival.

"It's not ideal but you can't

run them if they're not fit," Johnston said. "It's true to say that people have jumped on the Alderbrook handwagon, but to take it seriously we probably should have started earlier. But I'm not ruling him out as he's definitely the right kind of horse for the job. Celestial Key is not to be con-fused with Celestial Choir, an-

other Champion entry who has yet to run over hurdles. This gap in her education should be filled at Musselburgh on Tueslowing his booking to ride Chief performers to the all-year round day, according to Les Eyre, the are each-way.



Johnston: on bandwagon

six-year-old's trainer. "We were going to go for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle but she's been such a great servant, winning £40,000, that when the entry stage came round we thought, what's another £300?"

Both Celestial Key and Celestial Choir are at least 50-1 chances in ante-post lists. If Alderbrook is indeed on the way hack, make sure that any bets

set up by Boon Cricket Australia 239-5 v Sn Lanka David Boon played a familiar rescue role in his last appearance for Australia which set up Mark and Steve Whugh for an assault on Sri Lanka in the third and final Test

nings with 43 after Australia lost a wicket in the first over. Mark Waugh, who hit 71, and Steve, with an unbeaten 70, lift-ed Australia to 239 for 5 at the close on the opening day.

yesterday at the Adelaide Oval.

Boon, who will retire from in-

ternational cricket at the end of

this match, steadled the in-

Australia, who have a 2-0 lead in the series, took advantage of Sri Lanka dropping three simple catches on a day lacking the intensity of their earlier games. After ball-tampering and "chucking" controversies for Sri Lanka and heated exchanges between some of their players and a number of Australians in a World Series Cup match, there was a sedate air to proceedings.

Boon, bowing out after a Test career spanning 107 matches and 12 years, has struggled for form this season but appeared more agile and decisive in his footwork before being bowled off an inside edge by Ravindra Pushpakumara.

Chaminda Vaas, who removed Michael Slater with the second ball of the match, also sent back the Australian captain. Mark Taylor, for 21 before returning late in the day to dismiss Ricky Ponting for six.

The Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, was ruled out after he failed a filness test on a fractured hand, so Aravinda de Silva took charge.

mott, G.O. McGrath Bowleng: Vass 26-8-56-3; Pushpekumara 21-4-72-1; Wickernasinghe 23-4-57-1; Dramasena 10-1-31-0; Jayasunya 4-1-11-0; Hathurusinghe 2-0-7-0.

Raugusing is 2-0-10.

SRI LANKAL U C Hathurusingho, S Ranaturga, A P Gunisinha, "P A de Silva, tH P Tibelaratre, S T Jayasurya, R S Valuvitharana, H O P K Charmasena, W P U J C Vaas, G P Wickramasinghe, K R Pushpalvimara.

Umpirest L Barket and 5 Randell.

New design pays off for **British** pair

Sporting a radical new design of lightweight mainsail, the British Olympic pair of David Williams and Ian Rhodes kicked off with an encouraging third in the first race of the Tornado catamarans, writes Stuart Alexander from Miami.

They did not go to the World Championship in Brisbane this month, preferring to work on a sail which has less battens - five instead of seven - and a lighter weight of sollcloth, and is thus ex-

pected to provide more speed. While the race was won by the man who took the championship in Australia, Austria's Andreas Hagara, Williams and Rhodes could take satisfaction in putting Spain's Fernando Leon, strongly tipped for an Olympic medal later this year, and America's

Randy Smyth behind them. Less happy was Lawrie Smith whose opening assault on the tri-al to find Britain's Star class twoman keelboat representative, was marred by hitting the first weather mark, forcing him to take a 360-degree penalty turn.

TODAY'S NUMBER

20m

The amount in dollars (£13.6m) that Prague, the football champions of the Czech Republic, are in debt. The club's phone lines were cut yesterday when Czech Telecom took action over unpaid bills which stood at £7,000 last October.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stat FNOSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: (14 Rugby League

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP FO Hull v vory 17.30 at The Boule.ard, H.a., Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: LECTURE . LE DOME RO-ers (7.30): London Toures . Sincillad Situation

Other sports

.....M A Fitze

Tote Direct starts to take laughing stock out of the Quadpot

1.00 Ask Me Kindly 1.35 Lets Get Lost 2.05

Go Universal 2.35 Shankar 3.10 Aly Daley 3.40

■ Left-hand, penr-shoped rourse. ■ Course is E of form off the AGM (M16 Jets 3 & 4). Bus tink from Donester Central station, ADMISSION: (Tub 514; Grand-stand 5B; Family Enchance 53 (under-16s free). CAR PARIC: Free.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: 11 house have been sent 187 miles from Upper Lambourn in Berkshire.

1.00 CUSWORTH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 110yds

£4,000 added 3rn 110yds

1 3 ASM ## ENDRU 1559 0 Sheneod 9 10 12 ____ J A McCarthy
2 CSUDO P DALLAI (23) 5 Horts 5 10 12 ____ __ S O'Donned (7)
3 6260-30 FLOKTING LIPE (13) (BF) E Alson 8 10 12 ___ F Benchen (5)
4 00-F HARMYS SPECIAL (13) M Hammond 6 10 12 ___ R Bandity
5 0-2560 HARMEN EXAMEN (124,0 (6) I Marke 5 10 12 ____ F Bandity
6 LA CHANCE 0 Bennan 6 10 12 ____ E Callegean (5)
7 0 SOLIDOTHOM (22) M Alson 5 10 12 ____ E Callegean (5)
8 66-100 SPACEAEE BOLD (14) FOR 7 10 12 ____ E Callegean (5)
9 420 STAR PERFORMER (67) Mrs M Receip 5 10 12 ____ E Upton
9 420 STAR PERFORMER (67) Mrs M Receip 5 10 12 ____ E Upton
10 PO __ JST PHYLIS (26) Mrs M Receip 5 10 12 ____ E Upton
10 PO __ JST PHYLIS (26) Mrs M Receip 5 10 12 ____ Mrs Marston
11 604004 PALIA (13) S Earling 5 10 7 ____ M Marston
12 604004 PALIA (13) S Earling 5 10 7 ____ M Dobbin
12 614004 PALIA (13) S Earling 5 10 7 ____ A Dobbin
13 ETTING 2-1 Star Performer, 5-2 Ash Me Nadey 9-2 Mrs Optimist, 8-1 People, Hustland Helmen, 10-1 Speccage Gold, 29-1 Flowing Unit, 29-1 other

ings to the weather. Course officials reported that, although es in the third, fourth, fifth and six races on a card, and which has produced risibly small pools

it became available to punters

The Tote's Quadpot, in which since its inception, became a bet a pool of £2,297 at Wincanton. the aim is to find placed hors- worth winning yesterday when £2.234 was contributed through Tote Direct, while at Lingfield in the 2,200 betting shops that £1,656 of the £1,749 pool came have the Tote Direct facility. Of through the new facility.

Mark Openshaw, Tote Direct's marketing manager, said:
"It has had a bad press but we've now proved that we can get pools big enough to justify the bet."

6 1155-30 ONE FOR THE POT (21) Mr; 4 Haughton 11 10 9 ____ I Jenks
7 31F1/3-4 CORBARDER (57) J On 12 10 8 ____ Mr J Seryth-Ophounne
8 123U24 HOUGHTON (22) (85) J H Johnson 10 10 7 ______ P Curberry
— 6 declared —
BETTING: 5-4 Go Universal, T-2 Lake Mission, 4-1 Wind Force, 7-1 Rodoo
Star, 8-1 Deck One, 10-1 Convarder, 14-1 others

2.35 ROSSINGTON MAIN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £15,000 2m 110y

3.10 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE

(CLASS D) £5,500 added 3m

3.40 BALBY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500

4.10 LEVY BOARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT

RACE (CLASS H) £1,650 2m 110yds

J RACE (CLASS H) £1,650 2m 1.10yds

510. THE ANNEL LESK (286) P Beens 811 8 Mr R Honton (7)
BUDIANN WIND D STEWOOD 5 11 7 A BACCERTBY
CASHEL QUAY MAS P Behenton 6 11 7 Gay Lewis [3]
HENCH HOLLY (1864) F Marphy 5 11 7 A Baccertby
LIRRO NICK R Bart 6 11 7 R Marphy 5 11 7 R Manneey (5)
PER WARRHOR H Metamond 5 11 7 R Gertfy
SWARH STREET (NO2 C Mann 5 11 7 R Gertfy
SWARH STREET (NO2 C Mann 5 11 7 D Bolloghar (7)
2-13 VANCE COMPER (83) (85) M Tompforts 5 11 7 D Bolloghar (9)
ALREAN STREET (NO2 C Mann 5 11 7 R Gertfy
RED WARRHOR M (85) M Tompforts 5 11 7 R Bolloghar (9)
ALREAN STREET (NO2 C Mann 5 11 7 R Bolloghar (9)
ALREAN STREET (NO2 C MANNEL STREET (NO2

MR LURPAK Mrs M Reseley 4 10 9 ______M Ne ROBERT THE BRAVE / M Jefferson 4 10 9 _____M Ne

- 18 declared -IMR: 3-1 Southern Cross, 7-17alio Cover, 8-1 Mr Lurpek, Glown Wind,

MOUNT LODGE (60) Mrs L Jewell 5 11 8 -

MAC'S TAXO P Hastern 4 10 10

3.20 FELCOURT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C)

Minimum weight: 10st. True handkop weight: Tyrone Bridge Stg 66. BETTING: 3-1 Edinbourg, 9-2 All For Luck, 5-1 Plastic Spaceage, 7-1 Spuffington, Tale Of Endurance, Desperate, 8-1 others

3.50 LIGHT WEIGHT PLASTERING NOVICE HCAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 2m 3f 110yds

12 horses Annual (87) was present a 110 mm and 12 declared — Minimum: 10st, True handicap weights: Sprintage 9sr 11st, Ass A Secu 35: 2s. BETTINE: 4-1 Tridestry's Gift, 5-1 Lephant's Fable, 8-1 Prince Mastin, 7-1 Decent Breen, Pond House, 8-1 Causin's Boy, Lord Nitrogén, 10-1 others

4.20 HBLB EDENBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 2m 3f 110yds

3 0-50313 TICKERTY'S GIFT (S)(CD) (EF) G L Moore 511.13

3P4C3F HULLO MARY DOLL (8) S Melter 7 10 6 55/2/P SMART REBAL (57) J Avelura: 8 10 S. 000-06 SPRINTFAYRE (9) Mrs M Long 8 10 0 . POP-P JUST A BEAU (57) Mrs L Jewel 5 10 0

1 #68111- READY TO DRAW (354) (C) R O'Subsen 7 12 0_

0/26100 OLDHOL WOOD (14) (C) S Welse 6 1D 12

Minimum weight: 10st. True hundrop weight: Le Soroer des 13th. BETTING: 4-1 tano Delight, 9-2 Ready To Draw, 5-1 The Block Mo Gold, 8-1 Oldhall Wood, Alice's Mirror, 10-1 others

2 232840 THE BLACK MONK (8) (03 M Pos 6 11 13 ... D Brid 3 5515-30 MM DELIGHT (36) Ms P S, 9 11 7 ... Sophie Mind 4 2250-45 SMRED GOLD (9) JUSIN'S 11 ... M 5 34-PLOP FOX CHAPLE (9) R JUSIN 9 11 2 ... ATB 6 3200-00 FUNAMEULEN (USA) (65) N Walter 9 10 13

00026 DESERT BRAVE (18) Mrs 5 Smith 6 12 0 R Williamson (7)

POSITIVO MISS C Carne S 11 8.

TEPESTEDE R Rose 5 11 6 ..

SMOLENSK J Berry 4 10 10.

£7,000 added 3m

GREENBEE T George 5 11 2

12-1 Penrosa Lad. 14-1 others

added 2m 110vds

SOUTHWELL

Both today's turf cards at Ling-

12.40 Modest Hope 2.30 Yeoman Oliver 1.05 SO AMAZING (nap) 3.00 Weetman's Weigh 1.30 Mr Moriarty 3.30 Convent Guest 2.00 Kira (nb)

field and Doncaster are threat-row, there will be an inspection

ened by frosty weather and at 10,45am today. One Man is

inspections will take place at 7.30am and 7am respectively.

due to race at Cheltenham, which has lost its last two meet-

GOING: Standard

STALLS: Inside:

BRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers are best over 50 El Filotocond surface; left-hand sharp, oval course, 🖫 Guiner e fan Wof Newark at Rolleston, Rolleston Junction rathray saatkin adjours the course: ADMISSION; Club v12, Tattersells \$6 (OAP members of course's Inamond Club \$1, no ompanied under-16s from, CAR PARK; Free,

SIS

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Chapman — 11 women from 297 runners at a ratio of 10.2% going a loss to a 51 level stake of \$122.74; S Nortea — 35 winners, 172 runners, 20.2%, +\$25,80, R Hollinshead — 35 winners, 361 runners, 2,73%, -\$1,90.66, T B Barron — 35 winners, 200 runners, 15,7%, +\$17,60.

图 LEADING JOCKEYS: J Quian — 40 stanco., 178 rides, 8.4%, 4217 43; L Dettori — 50 winters., (20 rides, 21.1%, 5.34.78, J Wosver — 36 winners, 290 rides, 19%, 45 19.02; Dean McKeown — 36 winners, 257 rides, 12.8%, 4571,08. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: So Amazing (1.05) won here on Friday; Kingehlp Boy

LONG-HISTANCE BUNNERS; Warm Rearted (2,00) & Mislemani | 1.00 | travel 2.00 miles from A New ombo's Yarnscomie sathie in Devon; Father Dan (12,40) & Awasha (2,00) cover 200 miles from Miss G Kelleway's Whiteumbe yaid in Doroct, Postmyswen (1,00) travels 156 miles from DBurchelf's Briery Hill stable in Gwent; Hever Golf Diamond (3.39) covers 147 miles from T.J. Naughton's Epsoin yard in Survey: Grey Charmer (2.30) travels 143 miles from C. James' East Barman scable in Berkshire; Sharp Thrill (1.30) & Threesocka (2.30) cover 132 miles from B. Smart's Lambourn yard in Berks

12.40 BALDERTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV

ı	<u>-</u>		if the few added the 4t Penalty value trazza
ı	1	13230-2	GOLD BLADE (6) (D) Uef Pearce J Pearce ? 12 0
l	2		FATHER DAN (6) (C) (BF) (Nesser Racing Cub) Mass Gay Kellevey 7 12 0 Mr. J Darbart
l	3	450106-	CHANTRY BEATH (106) (D) Processes Speed Locket C Thornton 5 11 5
ı	د		TEMPERANG (LA) (CD) (Remard Bererson) O Chapman 10 11 5
ı	5		MODEST HOPE (USA) (7) (CD) U McManamoni B Richmord 9 11 2 libs D Kettlemed
ı	5		EMICTION TWENTYTWO (552) (D) (C C Majori C Broad 8 10 9
ı	7		CONTECTS LEGEND (1.4) (C) (D) (BF) (Q Hotones) J Bottomby 6 10 8
ı	8		MAJOR SNUGFIT (11) (A GRAMMOOD) N W Easterby 4 10 4
ı	9	05000-5	PHANAN (14) (D) (P. E Peacock) R Peacock 10 9 9
ı	10	0600.00	REPRESENCE A 11 Remark F Donner N Devot A Q 7 No. C Marines (5) 1

Minimum weight: 597th. True handcop weight: Nebrangist Set 1th.
BETTRIC: 11-4 Gold Blade, 7-2 Feither Dan, 4-1 Major Snogfit, 6-1 Claustry Boath, 8-1 Modest Hope,
Contact's Legend. 10-1 Tempering, 20-1 Junction Twentytee, 25-1 others
1995: no Corresponding motions

GOLD BLADE was having his first race in four months when runner-up to Royal Circus at Linglicid on Saturday and he'd have a good chance of giving away the weight if he can im-grove a length or two on that performance. The fact that Father Dan was favounte for that trove a length of two on trait performance. The fact that sauther than was revolute for that langified event means he can't be fuel out but, even though he don't entry the run of the race, he's been on the go a while and the handicapper might have hold of him for now. Mark famel is an eyecotching booking for Major Shugfit, a fair fourth of 16 behind Adoloal ohere on his latest outing any binkered for the first time since his two-year-old days, while the very experienced Stephen Swiers comes in for the ride on Chantry Beath. Chantry Beath naorth run on this surface before but that didn't stop stablemetes such as Peggy Sparoer and Stand Tall running well first time on films sand. Temperating's last win was book in January last year — but it was an amateurs' handicap for reday's rider, Rosemary Clark, and on a good day the old horse might still be able to set too strong a gallop for most of his

1.05 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER SERIES HANDICAP (QUALIFIER)

	, –		(ODIOC :) (BIT I) Delega comes Tit : comed
	1	÷36-11	SO AMAZING (7) (C) IC Peass) New S Hell 4 10 1 (6e)
	2	02140-3	BARREL OF HOPE (14) (C) (Peter J Walson) J Eye 4 9 10 J Fortune 1
I	3	100013-	JALMARD (48) (CD) (Breeson) & McMahon 4 9 4
I	4	40025-0	BOGART (LA) (A P Development Products (NE) List) C Fairtures 5.9.3
ı	5	0005-13	MONIAMATE (11) (CD) (BF) (Ms Zoe Grand S Borring 4 9 3 C Teague (5) (
ľ	6	30009-2	BAKERS DAUGHTER (17) (CD) U R Amold) J Amold 4 9 1
	7	020-463	WOMANIERA (7) (P.) Lawtoni R Holinshead 5 6 11
İ	5	0/005-45	SEA GOD (7) (Mrs 6 Ward) M Chapman S 6 7
ı	9	0056-03	THE MESTRAL (11) I'm Corty) M Ryen 4 6 0
ı	10	000/05-	LEEDONS PARK (163) (Abbots Sallord Careven Park) M W Easterby 4 7 10 . L. Charcock S

11-2 Barrel Of Hope, 8-1 Balors Deughter, 8-1 Jul

Having just got the better of Peggy Spencer on her first, run here, So Amuzing had to show plent; of determination to hold off another decent filly, Coshmera Lady, last Finday and, pro-wided those races haven't left their mark, she must have a chance of making it three in a wided those races haven't left their mark, she must have a chance of making it three in a row, despite carrying a big weight over the extra furiong. So Amezing might not be allowed to dictate the pace, though, because the Mestral (from an in-form year) their to make all on her last visit and Cashmere Lady's stablemate, BARREL OF HOPE, does best from the mont, too, Last autumn, Barrel Of Hope was caught close home in a 22-numer handicap at hork before making all to beat an even begier field at Newbury and he rain by no means bady on his last visit here, finishing third to the progressive Maple Bay and the in-form Benjamins Law. Komiannathe, up against Mingchip Boy last time, is a possibility, Joing with Bakers Designiter, whose second to Robelson in a fair event at Lingfield shows she's run into mind must be respected. One that could go really well at a big price is Bogart, bearing in mind that Ray Cochrane won three races on Lam Fort for Chris Feithurst early last year.

1.30) BALDERTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV

		II) £3,200 added Till 44 Letterth Asing Ta	
1	20,2006	STREAKY HAWK (USA) (39) Ueff Pearce) J Pearce 4 12 0	
	30~000	PONTYNYSWEN (324) (D) U L Thomasi O Burchell 8 11 11	Mas E.J.Jenes 9
-	OUGSTD-	PONITINISMENT (SEN) (S) O E MONOGO O SEN O SE SEN O SE	Mr. M. Krandson S.
3	006035-	BITCH (189) (R Naytor) G Kelly 4 11 9	The Managery of
4	0663-66	SHARP THROLL (S) (K H Burks) 6 Smart S 11 9	Ness y Martinal S
-	01000 10	HAD AND RATE OF A PROPERTY OF	
-	O-OUT.	CREEK NIGHT OUT (78) (Surpay Potatoes) J Eyre 5 11 1	
9	113333	CHEEK LEGAL COLL (LOL COLLEGE LANDS) AND THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PART	Mr. D. Kattland 7
7	00-0246	SHOTLEY AGAIN (11) (J A Swydurne) N Bycock 6 11 0	
0	000.	PRIETTY SCARCE (60) IS A Clear 8 Preece 5 10 9	Met [, Boswell (5) to
7		RECORD LOVER (7) (C) (Man Mann) M Chapman 6 10 5	Mr V Lakantel. 2
9	04004-3	RECORD LIVER (7) (4) VERNING AND AND A STORY	Line A Tinhar 1D
10	50633	ALPINE STORM (11) R JO Sowerby M Usher 4 10 4	

2: 2-1 Record Lover, 4-1 Mr Moriarty, 9-2 Alpine Storm, 13-2 Streety Hewk, 8-1 Greek Might 1-1 Sham Thelli 13-1 Porthymospen, Shotley Again, 20-1 Bitch, 25-1 Pretty Scarce

Considering that he hadn't raced since September, and carring 13th more than his true handicap weight that day, RECORD LOVER ran very will in finating a close third to Preniver Dance here last Friday when he made most of the number. Those that can be fanced to make a race of it include Mir Mortarby, from a stable going well at present, and Alphne Storm, third to Adaloaldo on her last visit. Mir Monarty ran Modest Hope to 2 over 1m3f here recently and had previously won a maiden handicap over course and distance by 41 here recently and near previously work a made and Lydia Pearce, so be can't be ruled out, from Abound. Streamly Hawki represents left and Lydia Pearce, so be can't be ruled out, while Postynyswen hasn't reced for two months but overcame a similar absence when tru-ting up in a race of this sort at Wolverhampton for today's rides, Emily Jones, on its first num-tars season.

2.00 ANNESLEY LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,700 added 6f Penelty Value £2,572

#ESTRM2 4-1 Aucoka, 9-2 Kirs, 6-1 Warm Hearlet, 7-1 Dissertor, 10-1 Sweet Heis, 12-1 Pan ther, Montages Dowses, Monis, 14-1 Fael Of Silver, Aquedo, Flary Fontsteps, 16-1 Grey Charmer, We're Johan, 20-1 others

Dissentior was three lengths too good for MRA in a course and distance handscap a for-night ago but he couldn't cope with the subsequent 9to rise here on Monday, finishing only fifth behind Daawe. With Jason Weaver on board, Dissentor lent easily ruled out but the weights here twood fire, who is 15to better off. Awardne stays a mile but the diseast she's weights here favour Kira, who is 15th better off. Awaiche stays a mile but the elected she's come to winning a race was over this title at Lingfield last time out, when she ran Myjinha to a head, if are's as effective on Fibresand, and the first-time birtiers have the desired effect, Awaisha is the one Kira has to bent. Flery Footsteps was only triches behind Awaisha in Myjinha's race at Lingfield but is 10th worse off now. As re's so lightly raced, Werne Hearted can improve more than most and wouldn't have to do a great deal better than at Lingfield last time to make his presence felt. He had subsequent winners Milos and Random behind when fifth to Pageboy, Panthar would have a chance at his best and won a conditions race first time up last year, at Wolvernampton.

Selection: NRA.

2.30 DANETHORPE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4.500 added 370 1m Penalty Value £3.075

	MAINITIAIN PHILEPHALLINGS INTERPRETATION AND ASSESSMENT				
	E) £4,500 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £3,075	16	1 25	SELBY COND. NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-	
0	BLINTSWOOD HALL [18] U Smyth R Hoarshead 9 0	JĿ	LJO	SELBY COND. NOVICE HANDICAP HUR- DLE (CLASS F) £2,850 2m 110yds	
ca 20	MOFASA (S Fustok) W (TiSoman 9 0 Erusu D'Gorman 1 YEOMAN OLIVER (A) (Michael C T Sches) 6 McMaron 9 0 L Newton (5) 3	1		LET'S CET LOST (22) (3) JA Hams 7 11 10 Toman Descripto	
66-22	BELACQUA (USA) Olis Jeanne Crapmon; O Crepman 59	2		MANNOON (USA) (57) W Clay 5 11 10	
645	CREEN GEN (SEL) (42) Panck Material 5 When 8 8	3		CITIZEN BAND (175) E Alston 8 11 5 D Thomas [3]	
	HORNEDOM PRINCESS (16) (G 8 Tumbul (10) M Carractio 8 9 1 Charrack 6	12		PRINCESS MADRIE (37) J J O'Neil 7 11 5	
	THREE SOCKE (136) (A H Burist 8 Smart 6 6	16		BRACKENTHWAITE (14) (D) L Liurnes 6 11 1 .B Brottom (3)	
	-7 declared -	7	055	PERSONANCE (46) Capt J Wilson 6 11 0 D Floregan (5)	
TRAC 3-4	Yennam Ofwer, 11-4 Minima, 5-1 Virescocks, 8-1 Green Sem, 12-1 others FORM CHINE	ΙŠ		BESCARY CORP. (STER) M Tato 5 10 13	
MIAN OF	IVER finished behind Kingsions Princess when both ran for the first time here	1,0		CERACISSA (41) [D) J Macket 4 10 12	
	nber, but Yeoman Other turned the form mund in Coachella's race at Woker-	112		EA MAN HOWR (128 N Triber 5 10 11 E Hasburd	
	werk on to run his best race so far when beeong all her Dancing Cavallar in	12		PROMICE SKYBURD (6) M Avison 5 10 6E Culturgham	
	handicap over course and distance on Monday. Clearly going the right way,	2.3		MEL D'THE RARS (78) (D) Ves O Home 7 10 8 A Hogen	
	er looks good enough to land this maiden, although the newcomer Mornes	15		BANKING (13) Mrs M Rousey 4 10 1 & Loo LOTLE TRACTURE (42) Mrs T M Sharrer 6 10 0 A Proctor	
	espect and could pose him some problems. Mofasa is a half-brother to Mid- accessful on both turl and the all-weather for Bill O'Gorman, who could easily	1-	50224 3	- 15 decisted -	
	ready to win first time. Arthough well beaten on her one previous attempt on			ht: 10st. True handisap weight: Little Tinchure 9st 9tb.	
	measuchs was making her debut. She showed abirty of Chepstow afterwards			Seriang, 5-1 MSLOThe Regs, 8-1 Little Texture, Royal Crim-	
	esents a drop in class after her final three-year-old start at Sandown. Bryan	\$00	n, 10-1 Pris	some Maximo, Let's Oct Loui, Berlie's bits, 12-1 others	
	ay Cochrone (semied up to win here recently with Sharp Gezelle, Green Gom's)	F	205	DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB HCAP	

PORM GUIVER finished behind Kingston Princes when both ran for the first time here 15th in November, but Yooman Other turned the form mund in Coschela's race at Wokenhampton and went on to run his best race so far when beeting all bit Dancing Cavallar in a 15-number handicap once occurs and distance on Monday. Cearly going the fight way, recommo Other looks good enough to land the molden, although the newcomer Morsess commands respect and could pose tim some problems. Morsess is a half-brother 10 Michight Jazz, successful on both turl and the all-weather for Bit O'Gorman, who could easily have the cont ready to win first time. Although well beaten on het one previous attempt on Fitnesand, Thinespocks was making her debut. She showed aboutly of Chepstow affairwerds and this represents a drop or class affer her final three-year-old state at Sandown. Byen Sman and Ray Cochrane Learned up to win here recently with Sharp Gazelle. Green Semisohes fourth behind Mask Flower at Lingfield (8th suggests she can win a first race but she must guit behind her a Ledon-pain but there last time out.

Selection: YEOMAN OUTCR.

3.00 CARLTON-ON-TRENT HANDICAP (CLASS 0) £5,450 added

Ľ		3YO 7f Penalty Value £3,709	
1	10200-4	SHONTARE (15) (Fail Dewy M Johnson 97	2
2		WEETHAN'S WEIGH (7) (C) (SIF) (E Woodman Haulage) R Hollandread 9 5	
3		CHELIBANG BANG (9) (Lan Crawford) J Sterry 6 11 PRoberts (7)	
ļ		YOUNG FREDERICK (13) (Nos Baine M Burket N. Burke 8 9	
5	03046-4	FOREMANI (4) (Times of Wash) W O'Gorman & 5	7
б	020-304	GROSTLY APPAREMON (3) (Nos Dene Upson) John R Upson 8 4	1
7		BREQUIDORE (9) (D) (G E Griffithal S Bourne 8 4 (6ex)	
		-7 declared -	
D.	TTMC: C.7	Washington Waite 2.1 Orleanness A.1 Varnet Frederick S.1 Chillians Rang Fred	

FORM GUIDE

en four lengths and a neck by WEETMAN'S WEIGH over six Brigasoone was only beaten four lengths and a neck by WEETHAN'S WEIGH over six fur-tones here on January 5 but is only 2th bester of the sterenoon, having picked up a penal-ty for his narrow win at Wolverhampton in the meinturne. But that Wolverhampton success shows that Briganopne is well suited by this distance, whereas Weethan's Weigh is trying the up for the first time. Weethan's Weigh is in good form, though, and should go well again after rumming Seeking Destiny to a neck last Friday. Childhamig Buing was only two and a half lengths behind Briganopne at Wolverhampton and has a Sib publication, while Yound a half lengths behind Briganopne at Wolverhampton and has a Sib publication, while Yound a half lengths behind Sovereign Prince in a hardicago over this tip at Lingfield. Foreason has run respectably in much bigger fields than today's on his last brot wists, the latest last Monday in the race won by Denoing Cavaber (who is from the same stable as Weetman's Weigh), but might not as much room for improvement.

3.30 FACKLEY SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) (SELLING SERIES QUALIFIER) £3,750 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £2,607

_	_	darm rad botton agreet of the commit	
1	00125-3	DEMOCRACY (18) (CD) (EP) (TH Berma) J Payne 9 4	A McGione
2		TICKA TICKA TEMPIE (21) (C) (Mrs M Linguoso) 6 Mursy 94	
3		DOWN THE YARD (7) (Geoff Whong) M Chapman 6 13	
4	60053-2	WELSH MELOON (18) (M Dereni K Burke 8 13	
5	5-0	ADLER CLES IG B Trumbull Lard M Carried a 12	
6	D-S	HENER GOLF DIAMOND (18) IM / Currenteret F Naustan 2 12_	
7		KRATZ (11) (Deren A Smith) 8 Rothert 8 12	
6	5440	LOCH STYLE (17) U 8 Wilcox R Holmshead 8 12	R Cochrace
9	6	CONVENT GUEST (24) (M A Ryani M Charmon 8 7.	P P Marphy (5)
10		HAPPER STAR (18) (PM Heaton) No. N Macaulty 6 7	

Forget LOCH STYLE's latest run, when he was mistaken for four-year-old stablemate Tara-yea and took on older horses over a far-from-surable mile and a half. Loch Style's earlier efforts as Wolverheimpton, the first over an extended mile and the second over sk furbings, suggest he has what it blees to wan a race of this sort. Welsh Melody won a Blee's select at Wolverheimpton last July out style come back to form only recently, with the and of bind-half the selection of the se at Wokerhampton last July but site's come back to form only recently, with the aid of bitriers. Weish Melody has the bearing of Dragonjoy on their running behind Guy's Gamble here.

18 days ago but, since he was fitted with the headgear himself, Dragonjoy has yet to run
a poor race at this level and could be in the money. Convent Quest is another with a chance
after her debut run behind Charterhouse Xpres at Linglaid 65h. She can improve for the
experience and over the forage journey. Taken Taken Takeng comes into the recharing on
his third to Dragonjoy here in November, while Never Galf Diamond can figure prominently
now he drops into a select with Jason Weaver taking over.

Selection: LOCH STYLE.

4.00 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER SERIES HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,250 added 1m Penalty Value £2,471

_		1	
ı	00000-6	GREAT BEAR (15) U M Crapment D Chapmen 49 10	P Femey (5) &
į	604	ACONORACE (238) (The Butternick Race Col R Fatey 49 7	
3	33000-3	QUE ROBERT (7) (Tony Faccest) J Fiz Gerato 4 9 6	M Wighara S
	000-011	RENGCHEP BOY (4) (CD) (Four Jays Recent Permersho) M Ryan T 9 5 (6ev
5	602033-	ADSLEMANI (63) (Am Partele Carry A Nescombe 694	D 9 ffffff (5) 9
,	2000000-	PC'S CRUSER (81) (CD) (PC Racing Patriers) J Eyra 4 9 3	R Lappin &
•	000335-	LADY SILK (55) (C) (New Markson) Mark J Craze 5 9 3	N Kernedy 4
3	20005-	DIA GEORGY (22) (D) Mas Deborah Crockey Nits N Macauley S & 11	Qabon 3
,	00030-	GENESIS FOUR (18) (ED) (No. 14 Farous) S Sowing 6 6 6	C Teague (5) 1
Ø	00:00:-0	DARBUA LAD (4) (R G Rockes) A Harrison 6 7 13	Charnock 2
		- 10 declared -	
1		14 Marchin Bay 8.4 Consolv Sun 7.1 Milliomen 8.1 orly Cife	10-1 Pr's Chicar

SCHIP BOY can complete the hat-trick, because unday's opposition looks no tought than that he left training here on Monday. Moreover, the seven-year-old picks up no ex penany. Roy Bowring's horses are ocloring over notely and Genesia Four will have benefit that this his received the second over nooly and Genesis Four will have benefits per any. Roy Bourney's horses are ocloring over nooly and Genesis Four will have benefits from his outing behind Warturst here earlier this month, while Mislemani shaped well in two races here towards the end of 1995 and should make a race of it. Judged on two with here early last year for Michael Charpman, Pe's Grusser sort body hardwayped, but whether here early last year for Michael Charpman, Pe's Grusser sort body hardwayped, but whether here is another matter.

Selection: KINGCHIP BOY.

LINGFIELD

HYPERION 1.10 Drum Battle 1.45 Megamunch 2.15 Air Shot 2.45 Supreme Genotin 3.20 Spuffington 3.50 Tickerty's Gift 4.20 Ima Delight INSPECTION: 7.80am

2.05 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB HCAP

OING: Soft (Heavy to places). Tourist and, starp undulating extense, Run-in of 200yds.

Course is SE of fown on 183023. Lingfield station adjoins course.

ADMISSION: All enclosures 53. CAR PARK: Club 53; rist free.

SIS RACHO

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Red Spectacle (1.10) & Mac's Tari (2.45) has been seru 270 miles by P Hostan from affidie-ham, N Yoriov, Smolenak (2.46) sera 268 miles by J Berry from

- 1	- 11	1 10	ASHURSI HUNDLE (CLASS E) 2-3,200	,
-	Ŀ		added 4YO 2m 3f 110yds	
1	1		MUCH TOO HIGH (21) T J Navastron 11 5	
- 1	2	3-3102A	OUT RANGING (FR) (25) M Pipe 11 0	ī
	3	00	BOLD CHARLE (9) S Molor 10 12R Man	a
- 1	4	4	DRIAM BATTLE (S) W G M Turner 10 12 A Thornto	
	5	- 00	PLOW BACK (23) G Erngri 10 12 R Kenunci	
	6		KINGSWOOD MANOR Mas y Williams 10 12 M A Filipport	
	5 6 7		RED SPECTACLE (62) P Hastern 10 12	
- 1	8	563	POREST MELL (17) J Spearing 10 7	Ą
			8 decisard	
	200	THE 24	Out Designet 7.9 March Top Lifety Person Bottles Q.9 Street	d

MIR, 5-1 Red Spectacie, 12-1 Bold Charge, 14-1 others 1 45 WORTH WOOD SELLING HANDICAP HUR-

ᄕ		DLE (CLASS 6) £2,600 2m 110yds
1	364-0	FABRIANA (5) T) Navetion 5 12 0 S Ryan (7
2	PP6	PRESIDENTIAL (8) K Commensor-Brown 5 12 0R Dank
3	143-430	MINISTER'S MADAM (5) (D) I Nexão 5 11.8 & F Ryan (5)
4	P354P4	DESERT PRESEDENT (8) R Hord 5 11 0 Mr J Calloty (7
5	B1/4-3P	MDOM (17) 6 Engst 9 10 11
6		NORTHERN HIGHLIGHT (45) T McGouern 5 10 7 .A P McCo.
7		MEGAMUNCH (65) R Judas 8 10 7
8		CRAZY WEATHER (15) M/s P Sty 5 10 5R Market
9		BAY BOB (43) T Casey 7 10 0 S Murph
10		RAPIQ (SS) Mrs L Joseff 5 10 0D Look
ü	5-50600	PONTEVECCHIO BELLA (21) (D) L James 10 10 0.W Whiteh (7
17		VERRO (USA) (52) K Bistop 6 10 0 L Harvey
_	27	12 declared -
		to the Tree territory with the Ball for 15th Dall for the

215) ADVENTURE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D)

וַ	2.10	£5,500 added 2m	
1 2	220-012	ARR SHOT (13) (CD) 0 Nicholson 5 11 10	
Ž	006000-	BRIGADIER SUPREME (350) P Buder 7 11 4	A Fitzginia
3	ZZ 33315	NORDANSK (13) M Mediatek 7 11 4	B Feets
4	3/33-030	PETE THE PARSON (17) J Old 7 11 4	Osbon
5	04-4570	REESHLOCH (8) A Turnel 7 11 4	S McNo
8	F2/554-4	STAGE PLAYER (36) Miss C Carpe 10 11 4	D Levi
Ť		TANGO'S DELIGIT (8) 9 Beauth 8 11 4	
1		7 dectared	
RE	THING: 4-5	Air Short, 11-4 Nordansk, F-1 Strate Plants, J.	L1 Bets T

son, 14-1 Tango's Delight, 16-1 Recubioch, 20-1 Brigadier Suprem 2.45 HOLTYE MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,850 added 2m 110yds C2 BRIONNELLI (17) M Wilderson 6 11 8 _____ P.O. CLOCK WATCHERS (7) 1 Broger 6 11 6 ____ C050- COALISLAND (382) R Ingen 6 11 6 ____

9-1. 13 res. 11-4 fav Total Rech. NK, 31/2. G Ernght, Lewesi, Tota: £6,30; £1.40, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £29.70. CSF: £29.54. Tocast £189.42. Trio: £90.00. Quadpot: £63.40. Placepot: £267.30. Place 5: £61.04. Place 6: £152.28. WINCANTON

2.30: 1. KEEP ME IN MIND 10 Skyrmel 6-1; 2. Amancio 16-1; 3. Moratock 6-1. 8 run. 1-2 fav Tainon (4th. 6, hd. (N R Machell, Pudletverthide). Yote: £6.90; £1.60, £3.10. £1.10. DF: £48.50. CSF: £79.85. Treast: £549.89. Tro: £75.90. NR: Smuggler's Point. 3.00: 1. SUNLEY BAY (Mss P Curing)
7-2; 2. GNus A Buck 33-1; 3. Rectory Garden 5-1, 13 ran, 3-1 fav Good Insight puried up), 1½, 6, (P Nichols, Snepton Molley, Total £4.10; £1.30, £5.20, £1.90. DP: £47.30, CSF: £95.08, Treast: £536.91, Tro: £103.50.

3.30: 1. EASTHORPE U.F. Taey: 6-5 km; 2. Northern Saddler 7-2; 3. Misser Oddy 11-2. 4 ran. 144; 1. (Miss H. Knight, Wan-tage). Tote: £2.00. DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.22. 4.00: 1 LANSDOWNE (M Griffiths 7-1; 2. Mr Playfist 20-1; 3. Carrig Dancer 11-4; faz. 4. Dontir 25-1 17 ran. 1: 4; fax 6-stror Romes. 6, 2; 4: P1-scnor, 5. Sher-m Mauet), Tote: £13.10: £3.30, £3.50, £1.70, £5.80, Dr: £37.90, CSF: £137.69.



*THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing**

Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary

0839 - 111 175

2, 2. Hill Ferni Dancer 5-1; 3. Sassiver 2-1, 14 ran. 3-1 5v. Royal Cross (5tml. 4). 12 Marray, Vermarkey, Total 14 60; 30, 11.50, 16.00, DF: 117.50, CSF: 2.10: 1. SECOND COLOURS II Fortune!

5-1:2 Spencer's Revenge 8-11 far. 3. Mr Neverating 2-1. 8 ran. No. 1.74 Ohrs M Revery, Section, Total 14-40; £1-30, £1-00, £1-60, DR £1-70, CSP: £11-16.

2.40: 1. CHEMCAST '4ex Greates! 7-2;

3-1. 7 ran. 6-4 lav Last But Not Least (5th). 1-7, 174, (D Nicholls, Tursk), Fote: £3.40; £2.30, £3.40, DF: £50.80, CSF: £29.78. 3.10: 1. DOUBLE-O-SEVEN (I Wester) 1: 2. Creeking 11-4; 3. Rest 4-6 tav. 5 ran. No. 21/2. (M. Johnston, Modernem). Tota 53.80; 51.20, 51.60. DF: 15.90. CSF 3.40: 1. RANES (R Cochrane) 4-6 fax; 2. Four Of Spades 12-1; 3. Perilous Pfight 4-1, 6 ran. 14v. 3-1₂ M Britain, Navanakett, Tokes £1.60; £1.10, £3.30. DP: £8.90. CSF: £9.67.

4.10: 1. REAL MADRID IN Adams) 11-2:

RACING RESULTS (P Hobbs, Minehead), Total £4.30; £1.70, £2.50, £7.20, DF: £13.30, CSF: £23.41. Inc: £149.10.

1.30: 1. ZINGERAR IA P MoCoyi 5-2 ba; 2. Handson 10-1; 3. Magical Bid 4-1 11 ran. 6, ris. (J M Bradley, Chepston). Tote: 53.10; 61.40, 62.50, 61.70. DF: £20.30. CSF: £26.14. Tito: £13.30. 2.00: 1. SAMELEE (A P McCoyl 5-2: 2. Price's HEI 8-1; 3. God Speed You 50-1. 16 ran. 7-4 fav Lets Rumble (4thl. 5, 12.

Incast: £451.25. Tro: £226.10 Quadpot: £27.50. Placepot: £3

Huntingdon abandoned – frost.

FA CUP COUNTDOWN: Coventry defenders have a Georgian on their minds. Guy Hodgson reports

Kinkladze firing City's revival

to believe that Georgi Kinkladze has settled in England, His outstanding form for a start and the eagerness of his club, Manchester City, to extend his contract well into the . ext century. Then again things occur to the Georgian that suggest otherwise.

The danger that yellow lines represent, for example. Let loose with a car this week, he parked on the double variety as he accepted an award as Greater Manchester's outstanding sports personality for December. The result was a missed chance to see Simply Red in concert, a towed-away vehicle and a £105 fine.

The following day he was still mystified. The police stole my car," he kept saying with exas-peration until the cluh's chairman, Francis Lee, took him to one side for a quiet word. Even then Kinkladze still had a "it wouldn't happen in Tbilisi" expression fixed in place.

Thankfully for English foothall, Kinkladze is happening over here. Bought for £2m, he is performing wonders in a weak team and is arguably the best purchase from abroad last summer, and that includes David Ginola or Dennis Bergkamp. Certainly City, who meet Coventry in the fourth round of the FA Cup tomorrow. would not swap him for either.

His goal against Leicester City in the third round showed why. Not many players can collect the ball on the half-way line. surge past two markers, bewilder waiting defenders on the edge of the area and score. Then few have his ability.

"I think he's one of the best I've seen in the last 10, 15 years," Lee, not a man to go overboard with praise, said, "If he continues to improve, gets stronger and develops sides of his game, we could just he looking at one of the best we've ever seen.

"I knew he had an exceptional talent but what he has done has shown an amazing strength of character. He came into a side which didn't win for 11 League games and it didn't "They're happier now. Look Kinkladze even if he is marked affect him. He couldn't speak at the ground be covers. He's tightly. "It is bad for me per-

against him. Yet he showed what a wonderful boy he is to come through all this and reach the standard he's at now."

Right on cue, as Kinkladze and Lee were talking, his goal against Leicester appeared on the television above them. The City fans allowed into the training complex to mingle with the players gawped in admiration and hurst in to spontaneous applause. A small, shy smile broke over the Georgian's face.

"I know I received the ball from Nicky Summerbee," he said, "then nothing. I just ran forward. Instinct took over." Lee interjected: "How does Andre Agassi get a 100mph

'A lot of friends went to the war. A lot of friends died. I wanted to fight too. Everyone in Georgia did'

serve hack? Do you think he knows? Georgi won't have a clue how he did it."

Clueless would be an appo-site description for Kinkladze's introduction to the Premiership. The 22-year-old was shifted around the field as City tried to find a position that would suit him and them, until his manager. Alan Ball, gave him a role he had also handed to another supremely gifted player, Matthew Le Tissier. He has

since played like a Saint. Ball acknowledges that his other midfield players bore the hrunt during the settling-in period. "When the kid was bewildered," he said, "and we were getting overrun in midfield, two players were doing the job of three. They did it unselfishly but in their minds I don't think they were too happy with it.

There are many reasons the language. He was on his come to terms with what to do to believe that Georgi own. Everything was stacked when we haven't got the ball and when we haven't got the ball and he's tackling back. The players admire him because he has worked on his game. The youngsters copy him too. In this country it's monkey see, monkey do and our players could not have better skills to follow."

Kinkladze acknowledges that he struggled at first but his perspective has been anchored by Georgia's war for independence. A lot of friends went to the war, he said. A lot of friends died. Any hardships or difficulties I have suffered since are nothing by comparison.
"I wanted to fight, too. Every-

one in Georgia did, women and boys as well. Lots of people went to the war without even knowing how to use a gun." Dy-namo Tbilisi's club president perceived patriotic duty differently, however, and transferred his play::. : - with rock solid re-turn tickets in the contracts - all over Europe to keep them out of battle, kinkladze spent a year at Saarbrucken, a linguistic bonus now at City where there are three Germans on the staff.

The City players help Kin-kladze off the field, taking him out to his favourite Chinese restaurants, making him feel wanted, and on it a protective shield surrounds the Georgian who is attracting the type of tackles that have forced other imports like Eric Cantona and David Ginola to lose their rag.

He is calmer, less precious, than either Frenchman and appears to have greater mental strength. There have been no perceptible mood swings and had tackles are met with a look of injured contempt rather than retribution.

When he came back from Anfield on crutches this season the first words his interpreters could prise from him were, "I'm going to play in the next game. I must play." He did as well.
"They kicked me in Georgia too," he says. "I'm used to it."
The close attention that he will

no doubt receive at Coventry does not worry him unduly either. The City players are encouraged to bounce the ball off Kinkladze even if he is marked



Georgi Kinkladze, the Georgian international bought by Manchester City for £2m, is arguably the best buy from abroad during the summer

sonally, he said, "but good for the fitness and form permitting, team. If two or three players are concentrating on me there is more space for others. The FA. Cup is very exciting for me. My dream is to play at Wembley." He will achieve that dream,

when Georgia play England in the World Cup qualifiers but his preference would be to go with his adopted City first. "The traditions of the two people are home. I fe very different but they are warm born here.

and kind in Manchester just as they are in Georgia," he said. "I have made many friends here, the chairman, the manager, my

team-mates. It's my second home. I feel almost like I was

Charlton the only man for England job Since Terry Venables an-nounced his intention to resign. A business approach

England's national sport has stopped being football and become choosing a coach or manager for the England team.

Amid the welter of comment and criticism, it is worth asking if there are any principles or guidelines that the FA could follow in selecting a manager. How fair are the accusations that the FA hierarchy are "inept", "incompetent", "a sham-bles" or simply "unfit" to do the joh of choosing the next coach

The basic principles of selecting a manager of any en-terprise are fairly straightforward. It is important to know, in advance, what the joh involves; its objectives, the skills needed, the responsibilities and any other requirements. The FA so far, have not performed badly against these criteria, despite the confusion created when a key employee an-nounces he is leaving. The FA have already identi-

perience

managing in the top flight and the England job is 1998 should must be willing to provide some that the FA is a continuity with the Venables disparate group regime. So far, so good, but the of people with FA's real problems lie in satis- different interests' fying other key

aspects of good selection practice. A successful candidate must be sure that he has the support of the people with whom he must work. The problem with the England job is that the FA is a disparate group of people with different interests, objectives and expectations. For some people the only thing that matters is England's playing success. Others want the England coach to be a media star while some want the coach to represent other aspects of the

It is essential that the FA is clear about both the professional and personal attributes of the coach or manager before making a new appointment. The personal criteria pose special problems. At least three of the last five England managers or coaches were undermined as much by personal as professional issues

The appointment of Venables seemed to be a victory for those who put coaching and media skills as their top priority. His chequered husiness career and legal entanglements were public knowledge. Anyone on the international committee party to his appointment but getting cold feet ought to have

The timing of highly publicised appointments poses special problems. The first priority is probably to damp down speculation by agreeing a clear timetable for decisions. There is pressure to make a decision before the European Championship finals in the summer. This might provide continuity but an unsuccessful campaign could undermine the new coach

before he gets started.
The FA's task is made even harder by the limited number of English candidates who meet all the professional criteria. The

just one candidate qualified to replace Terry Venables, says management consultant

ieWE

Tom Cannon

older managers in the top flight have limited international experience. The younger front runners like Keegan. Bryan Robson or Wilkins are just starting on their managerial careers. They are intelligent careers. They are intelligent enough to see that only one England manager – Bohby Robson – has successfully returned to club foothall and even that was abroad.

The best way to choose the coach will, almost certainly. mean concentrating on the immediate task in hand - preparing England for the 1998 World Cup. Getting the team to the finals is a vital staging post in fied the main professional re- the recovery of the English quirements of the new manager. game from the nadir of the He will need ex-

playing and The problem with prepare the team for the should involve Robson, Kee-Wilkins in supporting and developmental roles, not as ways to make or break their сагеег.

Against this hackground and using the FA's stated criteria, there are only two real candidates - Venables himself and Jack Charlton, It is astonishing that Charlton's name has not come forward. He meets all the professional criteria. He was a key member of the victorious 1966 team (Robson, Keegan and Wilkins have, so far. only known failure in World Cup

campaigns.)
More important is Charlton's success with Ireland, In two World Cup campaigns he used the limited resources available to Ireland brilliantly. He should perform even better with the resources available to England. His personand lifestyle are important defences against the pressures of the job. He has immense credibility.

It is much easier to imagine the up and coming generation of managers and coaches working with him than any other serious contender. The only potential serious barriers are his age and his willingness to speak his mind. At 60, his age is hardly a serious impediment. The dignity and assurance be showed over the last few years should reassure even the most timid FA administrator.

In the early stages of the search for a new coach, the FA have not performed hadly. But with recruitment and selection the real test is the final choice you make. The best man or woman for the job should be the person best qualified, and competent. The challenge to the FA is to keep this in mind and avoid other distractions.

Professor Tom Cannon is chief executive of the Management Charter Initiative, n business management considiancy.

Barrie-Jon Mather yester-

day failed in a High Court hid

to gain his release from Wigan

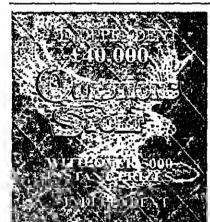
so he could join the Australian

on the transfer list in Novem-

The centre, who was placed

club Perth Western Reds.

Questions of Sport



£40,000 to be won

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In last Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000.

You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get ona chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. In tomorrow's Independent we will give you a new Questions of Sport scratch

card. Like your last card, it contains eight games so that you can play daily through to Friday 2 February As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000 waiting to be won.

HOW TO PLAY

C: Ian Botham

B: Michael Stich

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Friday 26 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A. B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Twenty-two, either A,B or C in the Q22 column then repeat for Q23 and Q24.

THE QUESTIONS Q22 Who has taken the most wickets in Test cricket? A: Kapil Dev B: Richard Hadiee

Q23 in John McEnroe's final match at Wimbledon he won the men's doubles. Who was his A: Peter Fleming

C; Brad Glibert Q24 in which country will the 1998 football World Cup be

B: Brazil C: Japan

Scratch off ONE letter only for each

If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by

HOW TO CLAIM

IF you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below. For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10,30am and 4pm

today. Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Forbuoys, Martins/RS McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs, Supercigs, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper

IF you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley,

 No purchase necessary. Cards are freely aveilable from newspicious or by sending a targe see to: from newsagents or by sending a large see to: Independent Questions Of Sport Card Request, PO Box 41, Elections X, BB2 6AG, One card per

- request.

 The prizes for each game will be awarded to the claver or players making a successful dalim.
- errors are void.
 Winners must agree to the publication of their names and photographs in The independent and the independent on Sunday.
- the independent on Sunday.

 Should more prizes be cleared than are available in any prize category, for any reason, a simple draw will take place for the prize.

 Persons under 16 years old, amployees of Newspaper Publishing pic., Mirror Group, Europrint Promotions Ltd., Newspaper Publishing pic retail agents, their agents and families are not allowed to pieu.
- he Editors' decisions are final in all matters relating o the games. No correspondence can be entered

QUESTIONS OF SPORT CLAIM COUPON

Friday 26 January 1996 To claim prizes up to £5 DO NOT PHONE

Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

POSTCODE ...

To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

Huish fans hushed by Bath's finale Non-League notebook hit back were hindered by a red

RUPERT METCALF

A cup-tie worthy of a far grander stage than the first round of the FA Umbro Trophy saw Bath City produce a remarkable recovery to defeat their local rivals, Yeovil Town, at a packed Huish Park on

After an hour of the replay Bath were 2-0 down, thanks to two first-half goals from the Yeovil striker, Leroy Whale, and had been reduced to 10 men by the dismissal of defender Chris

Nick Burton pulled one back, though, and the Conference side equalised three minutes from full-time through Rob

Seven minutes into extra time, substitute Deion Vernon put Bath ahead for the first time, while Yeovil's attempts to

New design

pays off for

British pair

Sailing

card for Andy Flory in the second period of extra time. Bath thus earned a second-

round home tie against Enfield or Hayes, who will try for a third time next week to decide their first-round encounter, Tuesday's replay ending in a 2-2 While Bath survived against

opposition from a lower league, four Conference sides were not so lucky. Woking's dream of winning the Trophy for the third year in a row ended at the Icis League side Carshalton Athletic, where the holders were heaten 3-1 last Saturday. On the same afternoon Wayne Clarke's Telford United

fell by the same scoreline at Burton Albion, while in the midweek replays Emley overcame Morecambe, also 3-1, and a lastminute goal was enough for Gresley Rovers to heat Stalyhridge Celtic 1-0.

Ban ends Edwards' cup run . **Rugby League**

DAVE HADFIELD

Shaun Edwards' proud record

of playing in every one of Wigan's Challenge Cup ties Sporting a radical new design of lightweight mainsail, the British during the eight seasons when they have made it their personal Olympic pair of David Williams and Ian Rhodes kicked off with property is set to end. an encouraging third in the first race of the Tornado cata-The Wigan captain, who has appeared in 42 consecutive ties throughout the successful cammarans, writes Stuart Alexanpaigns stretching back to 1988, der from Miami.

was suspended for one match by The pair took a decision not the disciplinary committee last to go to the World Chamnight, after being cited by Brad-ford Northern for tackles they pionship in Bristane earlier this month, preferring to work on a said had left their scrum-half, sail which has less battens - five instead of seven - and a lighter Robbie Paul, with concussion. weight of sailcloth, and thus ex-Edwards was also fined £150 pected to provide greater speed. for what was described as a

"reckless high tackle", with an While the race was won by the man who took the championship extra £50 fine for another, "careless" high tackle. in Australia, Austria's Andreas Hagara, Williams and Rhodes The incidents, in the match could take satisfaction in putting that clinched Wigan's seventh Spain's Fernando Leon, strongsuccessive championship 11 days ago, were viewed by the ly tipped for an Olympic medal league, who ruled that there was later this year, and America's Randy Smyth behind them. a case to answer.

Less happy was Lawrie Smith Edwards will now miss the whose opening assault on the trimatch against Bramley on Sunal to find Britain's Star class twoday, unless an appeal this momman keelboat representative, ing succeeds. If he remains was marred by hitting the first weather mark, forcing him to banned, then Jason Robinson, who has been standing in for take a 360-degree penalty turn. him during a recent injury

absence, is likely to continue at scrum-half.

Another international halfback, Tony Smith, will miss Castleford's tie against St Helens tomorrow. Smith, who played for England in the Centenary World Cup, has been suspended for one match after being found guilty of throwing a punch at a London Broncos opponent. Smith was not sent off, but was placed

Although Smith is also to appeal this morning, Castleford may now be tempted to bring in Franc Botica for his first team debut after he came safely through an Alliance game - bis first since breaking his leg in the summer - on Tuesday night.

Kirkpatrick.

Chorley, one of three clubs warned this week that they will be expelled from the league if their results do not improve. have vowed to fight for their "We are disappointed that

the league has made this statement, but we will respond positively by showing that we should be there," said the club's solicitor, Simon Robinson. Chorley were beaten by the

amateur side, Thatto Heath, in

the fourth round of the Chal-

ber after a contract dispute, walked out claiming they had failed to adhere to his contract. something Wigan have denied. At a two-hour private hear-ing. Sir Peter Webster refused on report by the referee, Karl

to grant Mather a temporary court order requiring Wigan to apply for his release pending a full hearing of the dispute. Mather's lawyers said they were considering an appeal.

TODAY'S NUMBER

20m

The amount in dollars £13.6m), that Sparta rague, the football champions of the Czech Republic, are in debt. The club's phone lines were cut yesterday when Czech Telecom took action over unpaid bills which stood at £7,000 last October.

Stewart the jock of all trades

or someone who began the season as the Pitisburgh Steelers fourth-choice quarterback -- most teams only bother with three - Kordell Stewart can expect to see a for of the ball come Sunday, Catching it. Throwing it. Running with it. Even punting it. For in a game which specialises in specialists, Slewart is the exception, the jock of all trades. But if Stewart's story is one

of the brighter strands of a troubled NFL season - his novelty and ebullient personality have made him the most talkedabout rookie since The Fridge weighed in a decade ago - it also highlights a darker side of American football. The plight of the black quarterback.

Stewart, a likeable and relaxed 22-year-old, has played the pivotal position all his life, and was an outstanding success at college in Colorado. However, when it came to being drafted into the NFL a familiar pattern emerged. Like many of his colour before him, there was great enthusiasm for his remarkable athletic gifts. but reservations about his ability to lead an offense.

NAS 28 (28)

: 14 34 34 A

Would he consider changing to wide receiver or defensive back? "I just don't know why a quarterback has to be 6ft 8in and 230 pounds, with blond hair and blue eyes," he said recently. "A team will invest in someone like that and say that he's going to be its quarterback six years down the road. But why can't a team do that with someone who's 6ft lin and black? People think a black Matt Tench on Kordell Stewart, the running, catching, passing quarterback

> impact was little short of sensalional. In a Monday night game

twice, caught a couple of passes

legend was born. He even had a

listed as quarterback/receiver.

normally not so much conser-

vative as Gingrichian, relished

the scope for unorthodoxy that

Stewart allowed, and suddenly the Pittsburgh offense, long re-

garded as prchistoric, became

the talk of the league. As the

Steelers rebounded from a poor

start to forge a route to Sunday's

Super Bowl, the rookie be-

of their offense.

came an increasingly vital part

The Steelers are firm under-

dogs but Stewart presents one of the game's few intangibles. The

Cowboys have the best defense

he will have played against.

lightning quick and unforgiving.

Given the predictable nature of

the Pittsburgh attack without Stewart though, Erhardt surely

has no option but to try to involve

him as frequently as possible. And it is just possible that Stew-art's versatility will confuse what

is not the most adaptable unit.

Erhardt, whose strategy was

guy isn't going to be a smart quarterback, and that's b.s." Stewart's predicament came a couple of years after Charlie Ward, another outstanding black play-caller, found himself undrafted, ostensibly because he was also considering a career in professional basketball. Jimmy Johnson, the former head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, and now in charge at Miami, suggested at the time that Ward had been the victim of discrimination. "There's still a stigma that blacks can't figure out sophisticated pro-style offenses. It's a tragedy that Charlie Ward wasn't drafted. And don't give me that hull about how he was thinking of playing in the NBA," he said. Stewart insisted he only wanted

work as a quarterback, and was taken by the Steelers in the second round, though his place in their depth chart hardly suggested he was being groomed as their play-caller of the near future. As the season began he did not even need to put a uniform on.

Then, as the Steelers made an uncertain start to the season, the head coach, Bill Cowher, approached Stewart to play wide receiver. Recalling the conversation, Stewart said: "When coach Cowher came to me and ask me, I asked him, Will quarterback he my thing in the future?" He said yes." Ron Erhardt, the team's offensive co-ordinator, soon

> As to the future, Stewart said this week that he trusted Cowher to give him the chance to play quarterback. The contract of Neil O'Donnell, the team's starter, is up next month. but it would be a surprise if he is not offered a lucrative new one. Of Stewart, Cowher will say only: "I think be has a future as a quarterback-slash-receiver."

Stewart's hest hope may rest with the league's rules makers. The NFL, which has a fascination for petty bureaucracy to make the boys in Brussels look positively laissez-faire, has already expressed its concern that Stewart is wearing No 10, a quarterback's number, but playing mainly as a wide receiver. Stew art says the only thing he will not do for the Steelers is change his number. Which means his team may have to play him more at quarterback, or trade him to someone who will.

pionship. Frank Williams pledged yes-Either way, there are many reasons for boping that Kordell Stewart one day gets his chance to be a starting quarterback. It | proved effort by his team, and would be a shame if he were just Photograph: Allsport a Slash in the pan.

squad has proved rewarding on the international circuit. In the men's event at the British épée

championships at Cosford. Quentin Bernman, Britain's most talented epécist of his generation,

is the favourite. Penny Tomlinson,

a former national champion, is

medals in the women's contest.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Treeday: Intercetional Match: Greet Britain Academy v France 17.30) (at Saford).



Great Britain's John Shaw (left) on the attack in Barcelona yesterday

Britain on brink of qualification

Williams sharpen up for title challenge

Hockey BILL COLWILL reports from Barcelona Great Britain

Netherlands

Great Britain twice came from behind in a classic match to break a run of seven successive defeats by the Dutch and keep alive their Olympic qualifying ambitions here yesterday. They need just a point from their last two games, against Malaysia

and Belgium, to be sure of joining Spain and India (and almost certainly the Netherlands I who qualified earlier in the day.

Yesterday's game started at a cracking pace with Britain forcing a couple of early penalty corners without reaping any reward. It was against the run of play that the Dutch went ahead in the 23rd minute, Taco van den Honert taking advantage of confusion in the British defence.

The half ended in high drams. With Britain awarded a penalty corner in the final

Williams-Renault chief said his

engineers and mechanics should

have sharpened their act and Hill

should be similarly primed, physically and psychologically to

make a better fist of their cham-

pionship challenge than they

did last season, when they were

up time at pit stops and Williams

also believes time has been lost

The team are anxious to make

soundly beaten by Schum

and Benetton-Renault.

minute, the Spanish umpire, Santiago Deo. temporarily suspended two Dutch players for consistenly breaking the line before the corner was taken.

Britain exploited their advantage at the beginning of the second balf and were on terms within a minute. Chris Mayer, who throughout this tournament has caused problems with his speed, this time got on the scoresheet himself.

Restored to full strength, the rampant Dutch attack stormed forward with van den Honert

Schumacher is now with Fer-

rari after Williams, as their en-

gineering director Patrick Head

confirmed, had made inquiries

last year about Schumacher's

availability, but were priced

Williams said Hill, second in

out of contention.

the championship in cons

claiming his second goal 11 minutes into the half from their first penalty corner. With just two minutes remaining. Calum Giles calmly walked on to strike home Britain's seventh corner for a well deserved equaliser. IOF a Well deserved equaliser.

GREAT BRITIAND D Linches. (East Girestead); J
What's (Reading). Some Singh (Southgate). Q
Forthams (Hourstow). Kalby: Takher (Carnodo, S Hastis (Hourstow). Kalby: Takher (Carnodo, S Hastis (Hourstow). C Mayer (Carnodo, J Shawe (Southgate). R Thompson (Dolaristow). J Laskett (Roading).

J Laskett (Roading). Capt). A Thompson (Odd.
Lugistorium). Substitutes used: C GRea (Havard). H Heakin (Feeding).

NETHERIANDS; R Jansen; E Jazzef. J Delmee,
M Drucqs. W van der Wal. J Brinkman. M Delenert (East). W van Pets. S Veen, T van den Honert, R van Wijk, Substitutes zeed: T de Nocijer.

S van Herswijk, R Westbrook.

Hill, conscious of Schu-

macher's phenomenal fitness.

has taken on the services of an

Austrian physiotherapist/coach

to upgrade his physical condi-

tion. "He is taking his prepa-

rations very seriously indeed,"

ton's Frenchman Jean Alesi.

Williams signed the

Williams said.

But he needs to sort out his over- feel Hill is a better champi-

Banned Dourthe accuses **England**

Rugby Union

Richard Dourthe, the French centre suspended for a month for stamping on the head of Ben Clarke, yesterday accused English players of worse acts of Dourthe said he thought the

media fuss over the incident during France's 15-12 win over England in Paris last Saturday had been out of proportion and that he had seen many acts of violence by English players in the past which had gone unpunished.
"But I don't think we should do things the way they do," he said. "That's the English mentality and perhaps we are more

intelligent."

Dourthe, who has been replaced by Alain Penaud for the match against Scotland, said he had learned his lesson. "The punishment is fair and it's a good lesson for me. It punishes my act and one month is fine. It proves

the injury was not serious."

Mike Hall, the Cardiff centre. is understood to have accepted £1,000 from Llanelli as compensation for suffering a broken jaw from a punch thrown by Scarlets' lock Tony Copsey when the sides met in a Heineken

League match on 30 September. The injury forced Hall to miss four League matches and Cardiff's game against the touring Fijians. It is believed the sum was arrived at by taking into account appearance money and bonus opportunities denied him, plus the cost of treatment.

Rob Andrew finally makes his competitive debut for Newcastle when be faces Harlequins in the Pilkington Cup fifth round at Kingston Park tomorrow. The ex-England outside-half has been restricted to a bandful of friendly and second team games since his departure from Wasps to become the Newcastle supremo.

Andrew, whose last com-

petitive game was for Wasps in mid-October, said: "On a personal level I am very much looking forward to the game. It is a big challenge for me as I have not played serious rugby for a few months.

There is a lot of expectation. but how my form is I will have to find out. But I have been living with the pressure for 10 years now and I am used to it."
SCOTLAND A (v France A at Myreside, 2
February): 8 Lung Oteron's FP; C Glaegow
(Henot's FP), & Shirel (Metrose), R Erikesson
(London Scotlish), Il Stark (Beroughmur; S years, "has a very good chance of the champiouship this time. Canadian Jacques Villeneuve and expect him to win races, but Melsh (Hawick), D Pattinason (M Hardepool):
M Browne (Meirose), G Ellis (Curre), 8 Stewart Edinburgh Academicals), D Barnes (Borgerium), D Cronilas (Bourgest, P Wolfon (Newsastie), 8 Renewisk (Howold), N Broughton (Meirose), Replacements: S Michol (Selfan), 5 Lulag (Instonaris), G Barne (Sewart's Melwig (P), M Novel (Sinfan), County), 3 Paul (Heriot's FP), M Scott (Ornell). onship bet. The threat to him,

Mr Versatile: Stewart does it all

RUGBY LEAGUE: Silk Out Challenge Cup fourth round: West Leads v York (7.30) car The Boule-vard. Hulli.

BOURNES Under 19 Amarteur Internationals England vidermany (Blackpool). That the first time England have met the combined Cermany, who are marked among the world's leading nations. England won the last international against West Germany in 1988 7-3 but lost to East Germany 7-1 the previous year. The champ evening in aid of the Lancasture Association of Boys Cubis has a few tables left for the direct event fielt 0.1524 651.06). Spectators can also be accommodated in the balloon of the Winter Gardens at £5 and the bout of the evening will be the well-england to the balloon of the Winter Cardens at £5 and the bout of the evening will be the well-england to the term Manchester, and Jurgen Brahmer, the 1995 European under 19 borous mediales. The promotion starts at 9pm, Winter Gerdens, Blockpool. (Tel: 0.1253.27766).

HOCKEY: Women's Indoor European Mistions

pool. (fet: 01253 27786).

HOCKEY: Women's Indoor European Nations Cup (Gasgarut Societiend, in Group A. open their campaign against France et 1pm. England 's coering in Group B is against Austria et noon. Admissor: daily: £5 adults, £2 under-18s; season ticker Hoday to Sunday!: £12, £5. Play starts at 10am today end tornorow, with the first semi-final at 9.50am on Sunday and the final at 3.45pm. Kelvin Hall International Spots Arena is west of Glasgow City Centre, on Argive Street. (fet: 0141 357 2525). TOMORROW

FOOTBALL: FA Cup fourth round, Endsleigh League Second and Third Divisions, Tennent's Scottish Cup third round and Bell's Scottish League Second and Third Divisions. RUGBY LEAGUE: Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth round: Castleford v St Helens (3.05). round: Cestleford v SI Helens (3.05).
RUGBY UNION: Tour Match: Portypridd v New
South Wales (2.30). CSI Insurance County
Championship Southern serni-final: Middlesex
v Surey (2.30) (at Old Meschants Taylors). Pikiregion Cup fifth round. Columge Clubs Chemportship National League Two: Moseley v
Northampion (3.0). Ternient's Scottish Championship Regional League.

enchaures). (1.0).
ATHLETICS: Great Birtain v Russia (Birmingham). The field includes a mixture of experienced hands and up-and-cortung athletes. The opening osermony is at noon. Admission: £10.
28 adjust, £5, £4 children/OAPs. National Indoor Arena, National Indoor Arena, National Indoor Arena, king Edward's Road, Birmingham, Junction 6 of M6 and the Arena is segmosted from the A38(M).

180x Office 0121-200-22221.

190s Unice (0121 200 2022).

CYCLINE's lock Retent Memorial Leegue (Manchesser). Manchesser, London. Edinburgh, caruff and Birmingham compete, starting at 7 pm. Admission: (24 adults, 22 children'voncessors, £10 family ticket. National Cycling Centre, Manchesser Velodrome, Stuart Street. 'I s located off Ashton tila Road, between Manchesser and Ashton-under-Lyne, near Droylesten and reached term A662 vs. Cochett Street. 'Tel: (3161 223 2244).

"VIUSHING: Omega British Husley Racing Chambonship (Aberloyle), Some 80 trains and 400 bags compets in the fifth round of the chambonship. Classes for hero, four and sa-dog sams of Sternen Huslings and Aleskian Malanutes take part in nears starting or 8.30am omorrow and Sunday. This is the best time or spectrong as the heats for the larger, faster earns are run first, From Glasspow, take the 1911 to Abertafula.

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport). Play to and including Monday will consist of a oil on/roll off format, starting at 10am each 1.5 Start Towns of the starting of the start for 2av. Stave Davis, the champion, is looking for is that Regal Welsh title and opers his descrete tomoraw at 7pm against Dominic Dale. Jethon Hendry, the world champion, open-gainst Mike Hellett on Sunday at 7pm. Adsociated Appendix Centre, Kingsway, lewbort, Gwent. (Tet: 01833 662666).

PICK OF THE DAY

THIS WEEKEND / Fencing Corble Cup / Epée championships Guildford and RAF Cosford

This weekend is one of the busiest in the domestic fencing calendar, with the Corble Cup sabre international at Guildford and the British épée champi-onships at RAF Cosford, near Wolvernamoton, it is 50 years attractive Cup for what is Britain's leading sabre event and domestic hopes lie with lan Williams, whose training with the French

FOOTBALL: FA Cup fourth round: Shaffeld Unat-ed v Aston Villa (3.0). Terment's Scottish Cup thad round: Whitenall Welfare v Cetec (3.0) (at Easter Road, Edinburgh). RUGBY LEAGUE: Silk Out Challenge Cup

fourth round.

CYCLO-CROSS: National Trophy linal round (Northallerton). This season, points from all four rounds will count towards inter moting this final round cross), though in the sentor men's Trophy Barne Clarke, of Team Releigh, has a 20-point cashion over the national champion Nick Craig, of Demond Back, Craig, mum, has a 20 point lead over the third-placed Steve Kright, of Halesowen C and AC and only a disaster will dislotge the front two. Kright, however, will have to work for third, with five points separating from Cary Foort, with five points separating from Cary Foort, of Scott international, and Stuart Burnt, the Ace RT rider. The senior men's race also has the stahas of a second category international, with
ranking points for the first 10 finishers and
prize-money. The select overseas contingent
will have an effect on the race's development,
though not on the outcome of the National
Trophy, Programme: Under-12s 10am, juvenies 11am, uniors noon, veterans 12.01pm,
women 12.02pm, servor men 2pm. Stone
Cross Playing Field, Hembleton Leisure Centre, Northallerton, North Yorishire. From A1,
at A168/A19 turn-off, signposted Telesside,
take A168 to Northallerton.

Next week

Next week
PootsALL (7:30 unless stated): Monday:
FA Cap fourth round: Queen's Park Rangers
v Chelsea (8:0). Endateigh Insurance
League Talled Divisions Donoscter v Lrook.
Representative Match: UriBond League v
Engish Universities (1) (3: Lanassire (0): FO.
Tuesday: Anglo-Italian Cop seemi-fisals
Birmergiam v West Brownen (7:45). Endsleigh Insurance League Flest Division: Senderland v Tranmers. Second Division: Senderland v Tranmers. Second Division: Sengrentrod v Wycombe (7:45); Burley v Orford Utd. Taird Division: Barnet v Torquey
(7:45); Parlington v Preston: Every v Hartepool (7:45); Patham v Sourthorpe (7:45);
Gillingham v Mansiled (7:45); Northamoton
v Pyrmouth (7:45); Wigan v Colchesser (7:45).
Auto Wasdiscretus Shield Morthern section
semi-finals first leg: Paterborough v Estad Rovers
(7:45). Tennesis Southern section semifinals first leg: Poterborough v Estad Rovers
(7:45). Tennesis Southern (7:45). Southern
Mosterwell v Abertienen (7:45). Southern
Mosterwell v Abertienen (7:45). Southern
Mosterwell v Abertienen (7:45). Southern
Mosters Cay: West Harn v Coverny
(7:45). Endsleigh tosumence League First
Division: Luton v Sheffled Utd (7:45). Second
Division: Barticid v Creae 17:45).
Auto Windscreens Shield Southern section
semi-final first leg: Shressbury v Hereford.
Southish League First Division: Actine v
Hamilton; Durdermitne v St. Johnson: Actine v
Hamilton; Durdermitne v St. Johnson: Actine v
Hamilton; Durdermitne v St. Johnson: Actine v
Hamilton; Durdermitne v Calendrian Thistie; Ross
County v Livingston.

NEXT WEEKEND

PROTERLIE Seberday: FA Cading Promestic, Ending League and Bell's Scottish League. Sunday: FA Cading Promestic, Chesse v Middleshruigh (4.0). Endsleigh League First Devision: Creation v Grystal Palace (2.55). Named v Entergram (3.0): Port Vale v Stake (12.0) (40 tolet): Reading v Portsmouth (2.55). Devision: Little League (2.55). Middle (12.0) (40 tolet): Reading v Portsmouth (2.55). Devision: Little (12.55).

RUGEY UNION: Secondary: Five Medions' Championship. Engand v Vistes (3.0) for Twoleshiem: Secondary Figure (3.0) for New York (1.0)

JUST THE TICKET: What's on where for the sporting spectator

Motor racing

They failed to sign him, now the

Williams team think this season

they have their best chance to

beat Michael Schumacher and

claim the Formula One cham-

terday a better prepared and im-

DERICK ALLSOP

RACING: Seturdary: LINGFIELD (AW Fiet): as Tuesday. (1.45). Chropatow: Cub £14; Taternais £10 (0.49; £5). (1.0). Sendores: Cub £15, Jurior Cub £16; 55ym) £23; Grandstand and Paddock £12; Siver Ring £5. (1.20). Wetherby: Cub £12 (accompanied under £66 feet; Talenais £7; Ourse £2 (cars, nebuling up to 4 act,415 £66. (1.10).

Plan ahead

The international cycling road season in Europe starts on 6 February and the spring classics offer the spectator the chance to follow teams and riders as they perform in the one-day World Cup races and begin turing up for the Tour de France in July. The Het Volk, on 2 March, is Bel-

How to get there: Cortie Cup, Guidland Spectrum, Perisery, Guidland, Surrey, is close to A3 and cleany agriposited. (16t: 01.483 443333). Fencing starts at 9emi tomorrow sindifectuols, gais final domy and Sunday (trains). Admission: £3.50 adults, children free, British épide championstops, RW Cos-trott, in Mingham, Water Mid-lands. 9.30am on both days. Specialing is free, but proper proof of identity is needed. glum's opening soring classic and is an indicator to the form of riders for the forthcoming World Cup races. Starting and finishing in Ghent, the 208km race includes five tough climbs on cobbied surfaces. The Paris-Nice or the Race to the Sun from 10 to 17 March is the Match: Greet Britain Academy v France 17.30) (et Saldord).

RUGEN UNION: Treaday: Citis Matchess. Bath v Cardiff (7.15): Dunears v Swarses (7.0); Massing v Perarth (7.0); Yorku v Treadry (7.0); Wassing V Perarth (7.0); Yorku v Treadry (7.0); Wassing (7.0), Hart Gibmore Poor Counties Chiampionality: Shropaher v Derbytime (7.30); for Shreebury). Wadenberg (7.15) (at Libertof). Representative Materix: Cara Mentation, Representative Materix: Leinster v New South Weise (7.15); Reference (1.0) (at Myreside). President V Representation of Cara Myreside). Plant Grand (7.0); Assarts v Mescambe Park (7.30); Bertford v Sanacers (8.0); first classic stage race of the season. The first six World Cup races follow, concluding the spring classics. The Milan-San Ramo opens the sequence on 23 March and the Grand Prix of Frankfurt concludes this series on 1 May.

The four World Cup races in between, all held at the weekends in April, are within easy reach for spectating. The Your of Randers on 7 April is a gruelling 260km ride party over the Ardennes and includes infamous cotibled climbs like the Murr de Grammont, 20km from the first. The Paris Pour this the Murr de Grammont, 20km from the first. The Paris Pour this the Murr de Commont. the firish. The Paris Roubaix the following Sunday fives up to its alternative title of the "Hell of the North", a hellish mix of cobbles, crashes and punctures. Chris Boardman has pendifed in the Liège-Bastogne-Liège, the fourth World Cup race on 21 April. The oldest classing he age of proceed it has displayed to the control of the

sic is a race of repeated short climbs in the Ardennes though on termac. The hill of La Redouts, 48km from the finish, is a good vartage point. The An-stel Gold ends the series on 27 April. The Netherlands' only classic is raced over the south-east coriex, 245km from Hearten to Maastnoht.

Heerien to Meastront.

Sporting Tours, of Ottey, specialises in cycling traps and provides excursions to these four World Cup races, though the Amstel Gold is now booked. Prices for the Tour of Flanders are a day trip at £65, two rights in Ghert at £139 or if you wish to bring your bike for three rights, £179. The Pars-Roubak costs £55 for the day trip, £25 for one night in Pars and three nights with bike starting at £125. The Liège-Bastogne-Liège race starts at at £109 for two nights in the town. Sporting Tours elso has a video brochure, narrated by Phil Liggett, at £5. This is refundable on booking.

ordhy v Chebarham 17.0; Weissis v Worsesse (7.15): Waspa v Brudgerd (7.30).

PACENE: Monday: SOUTHWELL (All Weather Flett: Club £12: Tottersalls £5 (DAP members of course's Demond Club £4, accompaned under-16s free). (2.0). Plumptor: Members £12: Tattersalls £8; Course £4. (1.50). Aye: Club £12; Grandstand £7 (DAPs 1887 proce). (1.40). Toseday: UNIGHELD (AW Ridg): All enclosures £3. (1.40). Mussellungh: Club £11; Tattersalls £3. (APs and unemployed £31. (1.20). Nettingham Club £12 (Junora, 16-21 years, £3); Tottersalls £8; Saver Ring and Paddock £4. (1.30). Wednesday: WOLVERHAMPTON (AW Ridg): Engance £6; additional £10 for enclance for meal. (2.10). Leicester: Club £12; Tattersalls £9; Saver Ring £4. (accompaned to the file). Proc racecards, (1.45). Windson: Club £12; Tattersalls £9; Saver Ring £4. (1.30). Throughy: LING-Field: Paddock £8 (DAPs £4); Course £2. (1.40). Towocother Members £12; Tamesalls £8; Churse £4 (Car plant sid coursurts £15). (1.30). Friday: SOUTHWELL (AW Ring): Het Volk (start and finish in Grant) 2 March; Peris-Nice 10-17 March; Misir-San Remo World Cupi 23 March; Tour of Flanders (World Cup) 7 Apri; Peris-Rouber (World Cup) 24 April: Liègo-Bestogne-Liège (World Cup) 21 April: Amis Gold Rece (World Cup) 27 April; Grand Prix of Frankfurt (World Cup) 1 May. Sporting Tours, 21 Menor Garders, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Odey, West Yorkshire US21 1MB (Tet: 0113 264 361 7; fac: 0113 264 361 7).

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, I Cana-da Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maker

Badminton

Baskethali

MBA: LA Lakers 124 Boston 107; Charlotte 127 Westington 113; New York 89 Marni 79; Hous-ton 98 New Jessy 80; Cleveland 91 Philadelphia 85; Phoens 101 Minneson 81; Chargo 104 Ven-cuaer 84; Inform 97 Minesukee 89; Derout 85 San Antonio 84; Seottle 96 Derver 79; Vroh 100 Boldon Sare 89.

CIS WELSH MASTERS (Linnell) Quarter-finale: J Price (Wal) bt J Dawes (Wal) 7-1 7-0; A Thornson (Eng) bt C Lewis (Wal) 4-7 7-0 T-0.

County champions, Warwickshire, have reappointed Dermot Reeve as captain for the 1996 season. Reeve has so far led The 1999 Select. Never has so trained was the common that the years. SECOND UNDER-19 TEST (Henre) Third day of four Zirhaber 47 (P. Huchsion 5-12) and 155 (Huthasian 3-32, C. Darnobell 3-25%, Ergand 344 for 7 dec (D. Nach 65n., O. Sales 50). England won by in hadage and 142 rose.

Football

Football

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP Group C (Johannes-burgic Jare 2 (Jusaku pen 5, Essarde 72) Libere O, Catre and Gabon quality for quarter-finels on goal difference).

RISH LIBRAILE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP Quar-ter-finels draws (Benevon v Arts for be played Tues 6 Feb. 7-30); Glentowen v (Juried (Tues 6 Feb. 7-30); Clentowen v (Juried (Tues 6 Feb. 7-30); Glentowen v hymera Udi (6 Hebrusty, 7.30).

EUROPEAN (IRDER-12) DUYMER'C QUALIFYING CHAMPIONSHIP Quarter-ficals drawn Hurgary v Scotlard (12 Merchi; Portugal v Baly (13 Merchi; Spon v Capel Republic (13 Merch; Germany V Franca (13 Merch); Rayne v Germany (26 Merch); Scotlard v Hurgary (26 Merch); Capel Republic v Spein (27 Merch).

Capel Republic v Spein (27 Merch).

France 13 Merchi; France v Bermany (26 Merchy; Soutand v Hungey (26 Merch); Buy Phragel (27 Merch); Cosch Republic v Spein 127 Merch); Cosch Republic v Spein 127 Merch); Cosch Republic v Spein 127 Merch); Merchiesbay's LATE RESULTS; Intermediated triestelises Prance 3 Portuges 2; Greece 2 Issael 1; Bally 3 Wasies 0. Coca-Code Cop quantitarilians in the series of t

come the opening race, in Mel- overtaking. He is urging Hill to ter and pass in a way that says, they think may come from Benetton's Frenchman Jean Alesi. SPORTING DIGEST

taking. He has to give no quar-

2 Racing Sortander O. Leading positione; 1 Atlette to MacArd P23 Pts52; 2 Español 23-45; 3 Compostate 23-43.

JOHNNEE WALLIGS: DLASSIC (Tanab) Merch, Stedgescre) Leading Rept-sound neares (DB or Int unless states (LB & J. Heyles (LW); D Kort-son (Swc), 67 E Dis (SA); J Doly (US), 68 O McCon-to (Aut); 47 Roungle (Tholy F Courses (LB); 9 Langer (Ger); J Townserd (LS); Z Moe (Burna), 69 P Moss sto Austr, a Rusmyski (Pholy F Douates (LSC; B Langur (Ser), J Townstern (LSC; Z More Charm), 69 P Moses (LSC); W Exreth (Austr, F Terread (Fr); 1 Velocament, R Refferty, J M Singh (Indt), Helde Chard-share (Tint); O Forcion (Mus); P Albecte J Van de Velde (Fr); O Cole (Austr, T) J M Singh (Indt), Helde Charl-share (Link); P Fowler (Mus); D Filende (LSC); P Gurmangsram (Mus); T Chocherton, B Bernin (Mus); P (Wester (Mus); P Fowler (Mus); G Rein (Mus); P Gurmangsram (Mus); S Schall (RCC); F Lintigram (Swe); P McGinlow, T S Collins (Mus); C Demonsy (LSC); G Norman (Mus); S Schall (RCC); F Lintigram (Swe); P McGinlow, T S Collins (Mus); C Chower (Fr); N Brigger, P McKinharmy (Mus); S Richerdson; C Pany (Mus); G Schallman, Mus); S Richerdson; C Pany (Mus); G Charles (Mus); O Rigam) (Mor); M McGear, B Lagocot (Mus); C Pighold (Indi); G Dodd (Mus); S Lasmey (Mus), C Pighold (Indi); G Dodd (Mus); S Lasmey (Mus), P McGinlow, S McGear, B Lagocot (Mus); P McGinlow, C Pighold (Indi); G Dodd (Mus); S Lasmey (Mus), P March (Mus), G S J Don State; J Loonard; A Flanguam, 65 G Sauans; W Austin, 66 O Pint); H Tanty, B They, 67 S J Arose B Andrinde; J Loonard; I Parmerk (Swe); J Accesses J Don State; J William (Mus), March (Mus), Mus), March (Mus), Mus), March (Mus), March (Mus), March (Mus), March (Mus), Mus), March (Mus), Mus), March (Mus), March (Mus), Mus), March (Mus), Marc

Hockey

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT
(Barcalons) State Day: Canada 1 India 2;
Melayan O Spain 2: Great Britain 2 Neitherlands
2; Balenus 1 Belgum 3

NHL: Buffelo 4 Hartford 2; Detroit 4 San Jose 2; NY Rangers 4 Philadelphia 4 tot); Pitistrumh 4 Ot-towa 3; Torongo 2 Chicago 2 tot); St Louis 3 Win-nings 5; Caligny 4 NY Islanders 1; Dellas S Estimation 3; Anaholm 2 Vancouver 1.

Rallying

Patrick Bernardini's faultless drive through the final night of the Monte Carlo Rally allowed him to secure his first win in the event yesterday. The Corscan, making only his second appearance in the winter classic, won with a comfortable margin of three minutes 44 seconds over France's Francois Delector, second in a Peugeot 306. The prerace favourite, Armin Schwarz of Germany, geme third.

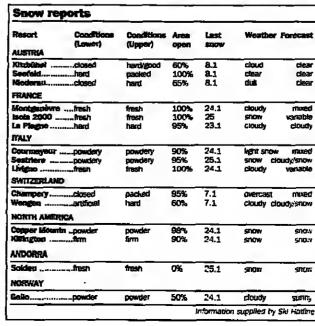
Rugby Union The Courage Clubs Second Division game between Moseley and Northsimpton tomorrow has been postponed be-

Skating EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONERPS (Sofia) Leading positions in los darros, after original denses: 1.0 Gattstruk and E Pintor Plas) 1.0 pp; 2.4 Krytova and 0 Ovasmnikov (Rus) 2.0; 31 Romanoca and 1 Systoshenio (Lin) 3.4; 4 M Anssana and 6 Pelanest (Fr) 3.6; 5 I Lobarchewa and 1 Averbuich (Rus) 5.0. Selectad: 1.1 M Humphreys and P Ashew (68) 11.0.

Skiing

Heavy snow has forced the postpone-ment of today's first men's World Cup downhill to be staged in Sestnere for over 25 years. Race orgnisers say they hope to switch the race to Garmisch, Germany, next Friday.

Alex Higgins yesterday made an attempt to avert or minimise disciplinary action against him by snooker's governing body by "unequivocally" apologising to two ret-erees he has verbally abused. The for-



mer world champion, currently serving a suspended one-year ban pending his fu-ture conduct, faces possible further action by the World Professional Billiards and dale during the recent World Championship qualifying event in Blackpool.

Table tennis

Lisa Lomas and Matthew Syed, Britain's leading hopes for the Atlanta Olympics, have moved up the world rankings. Lomas has moved up from 57 to 52 in the women's and Syed, the England No 1, has moved from 45 to 42 in the men's.

Britan's Martin Lee and James Trotman advanced to the last four of the boys' doubles at the Australian Open in Mel-Sciortina, of Italy, 6-1, 6-1.

Sciortina, of Italy, 6-1, 6-1.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne) Man's doubles, sent-finale: 5 Laninu. (Con) and A O'Brien Italy to G FORER! (Fig. and J HASER) (Seri) 6-3 5-7-3-6-6-2 6-4: 5 Echery (Sivel and P Korra (Cr. Rep) to P GALIRANTH (US) and A OLIVOSIN PRUS 6-2-7-6-5-3. Women's singles, sent-finales M SELES (US) to C RUSIN (US) 6-7-6-1-7-5: A HUBER (Get) to A COETZER (SA) 4-6-6-4-5-2. Doubles, sent-finales. L DAYENFORT and M J FERNANDEZ (US) to M MICGRATH (US) and A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Spi 17: G-FRHANDEZ (US) and N ZVEREVA (Bela) 6-1-6-7-6-4. Sended players in capitals.

*INDEPENDENT SKI Hotline

Be the first in the know to find the hest snow!

Dal 0891 333 110 Accurate, up to date snow and weather reports from over 100 resorts in Europe and North America by phone

> Austria FTALY Spain & Andorra BULGARIA & ROMANIA NORTH AMERICA

or fax. (For a fax report please use a

phone attached to your tax machine)

SCOTLAND Calls are සාකලයා ක ලිපිළුවකට ගැනුවෙනු කත පිලාර්තය ක කුරී මෙනු මහතුය

SWITZERLAND

SKIFAX 0897 300 330 The Ski Facts Calls in විට පුහලේ යන් E1 Silmon කර යන සේ .. ස් 5 කණුල්ල

Asprilla makes his way to Newcastle



PHIL SHAW

Newcastle United are set to conclude their pursuit of Parma's controversial Colombian international striker, Faustino Asprilla, by signing him for a club-record fee of £7m today.

Asprilla, 26, reportedly flew to London from Milan last night, en route to Tyneside, having agreed a four-year contract with the Premiership lead-ers worth £15,500 a week. The deal would take Kevin Keegan's outlay in the transfer market beyond the £40m mark in four ars as Newcastle manager. Talking on Italian television

prior to his departure, Aspril-la said: "I'm sad to leaving because I've had some good years in this city with this team. It would be a challenge playing in England. The prospect of taking part in the European Cup next season is an exciting one." He admitted his relationship with Parma's coach, Nevio Scala had been "tense", adding:

"Perhaps it's time to go."
Described by Colombia's former national coach, Francisco Maturana, as "always partying and hard to control", Asprilla is on probation in his home country following a firearms offence.
If he joins Newcastle, he would have to report to the Colombian Embassy once a month.

Couto, has emerged as a possi-Paul Gascoigne has been or-

ble target for Manchester Unitdered to stand trial in Italy next ed. On the recommendation of October on charges of injuring the former England manager a photographer in Rome 18 Bobby Robson, under whom months ago. The Rangers and Couto played at Porto, Alex Fer-England midfielder, who was guson and his chief scout, Les then with Lazio, is alleged to Kershaw, watched the 26-yearhave injured the photographer old centre-back play for Portugal in Wednesday's 3-2 defeat by France in Paris. Parma value when trying to remove a roll of film from his camera. Gascoigne's legal adviser, Mel Stein, said: "If we have to make Couto at £5m. United yesterday confirmed that they have held talks with Milan about establishing a playa plea it will be not guilty."

Birmingham's hopes of signing Vinny Samways from Everer-exchange system aimed at cirton and Vinnie Jones from cumventing the Bosman ruling. Wimbledon were dashed yes-Under the proposed agreement, Milan would have first opterday. Samways was prepared

Another Parma player, the Portuguese defender Fernando ing to the end of his contract, to take a wage cut of £3,000 a week but still could not agree of £300,000 for Jones was

rejected. Wimbledon offered their captain when Barry Fry, the Birm-ingham manager, asked inquired about Andy Clarke. "Sam Hammam said someone like Vinnie would do us the world of good," Fry said. "Not that he can play, but he's a good leader." Leeds United have signed Uli

Borowka, the 33-year-old German international utility defender, on toan from Werder Bremen until the end of the season. Bolton Wanderers are seeking clearance for Mohammed Ben Sylla, a striker

Ian Walker, the Tottenham goalkeeper, is doubtful for tomorrow's FA Cup match against Wolves after returning from the England "get-together" with a stomach complaint. Stuart Pearce may miss Nottingham Forest's tie with Oxford after sustaining a calf injury with England. Gerry Francis is looking for justice from Uefa when they

against a European suspension in Geneva today. The Spurs manager believes they have an "ourstanding" case their attempt to overturn the one-year ban, imposed by the governing body of European

consider Tottenham's appeal

football for the club's lukewarm approach to the Intertoto Cup last summer. "If there is any justice and commensense it will all come out right," he said. "If the ban stands il would destroy everything we have allworked so hard to achieve."

Italy's clubs were left confused. after a meeting with Uefa in Rome vesterday to discuss the Bosman ruling, The Ucfa president Lennart Johansson, Iron whom many Italian clubs had expected guidance, told them that the path to follow was an agreement among themselves. Asked what Uefa would do if clubs ignored the rules, Johansson said: "We won't be able to issue judicial sanctions, only moral ones."

Asprilla: £15,500 a week Comeback of career from Seles

Tennis

Monica Seles produced one of the comebacks of her career to win a place in her fourth Australian Open final by beating the teenager Chanda Rubin in three

sets in Melbourne yesterday.
Seles faces the eighth seed, Anke Huber, after the German reached her first Grand Slam final with a three-set win over the South African Amanda Coetzer.

The 22-year-old Seles, favourite to win her ninth Grand Slam title in the absence of the injured Steffi Graf, came back from 5-2 down in the third set to win an epic semi-final 6-7, 6-1, 7-5 against the talfacing Seles for the first time.

Seles, the joint world No 1 who has suffered niggling injuries throughout the tournament, had to dig deep to level the match in the second set against an inspired Rubin after losing the first on a tie-break.

Rubin, who had beaten the world No 3, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, in a three and a half hour quarter-final, followed the same do-or-die approach and at 5-2 in the deciding set the Centre Court crowd scented an upset. But Seles - never beaten in Australia in 31 matches. Steffi Graf misses next 27 of them at the Australian Open - had other ideas.

Seles held serve and at 5-3 she finally cracked Ruhin's pound-

ing serve for the first time in the set, and then hroke again to set up a remarkable victory and hring the crowd to its feet.

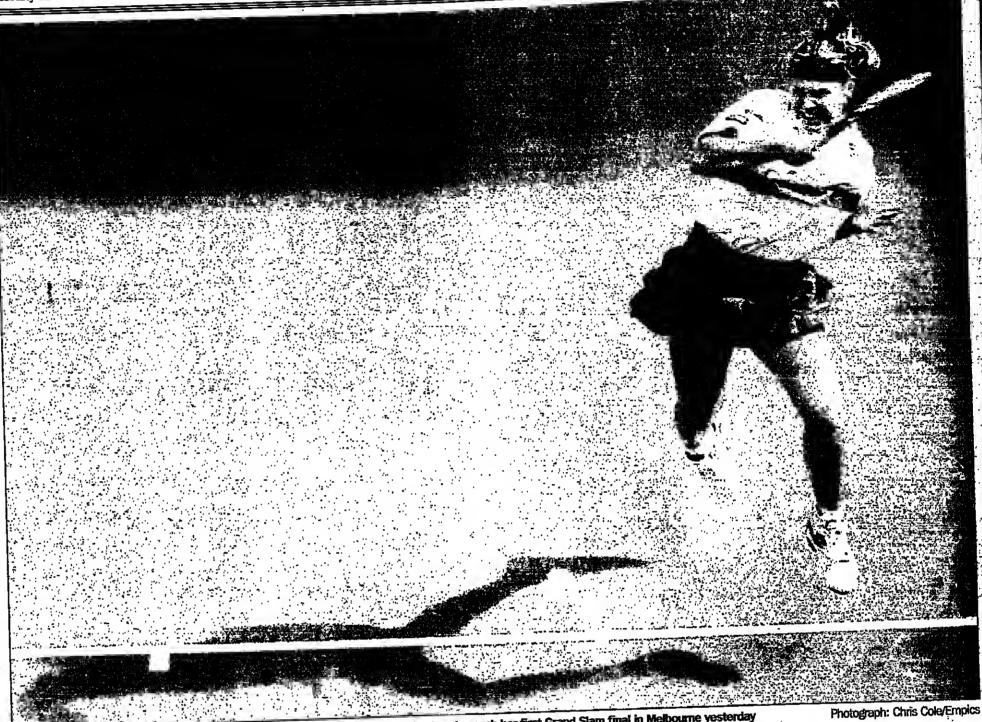
Seles, who won the event three years running before her stabbing in April 1993, said she felt lucky to have reached the final. "I just can't believe it, because at 5-2 I was pretty sure it was goodbye," she said. "I'm very tucky to be in the final."

Ruhin, who won a protracted standing ovation for her vic-tory over Sanchez Vicario, said she tried to dominate Seles by going for her shots. "I tried to stay aggressive and I think I did that pretty well. I gave myself chances but I didn't close it out.

Seles, who has beaten Hnber ented American, who was twice since coming back from her 28-month lay-off, predicted a hard-hitting final tomorrow. The German lived dangerously against 16th-seeded Coetzer. After losing the first set, she changed tactics and slowed down the pace of the match against the diminutive South African who was chasing down everything.

"I tried to hit too many winners." Huber said. "In the second set I played a little bit some high balls, I changed the rhythm a little bit and that was the important thing."

week's Pan Pacific Open in



Results, Sporting Digest, page 23

Out of the shadows: Anke Huber, of Germany, on her way to beating Amanda Coetzer to reach her first Grand Stam final in Melbourne yesterday

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD in association with

CHARLESON

No.2893. Friday 26 January

- ACROSS Pasta dish was exquisite (8) ing-room (11)
 Carriage, one parked in dri24 Firm in Maine about to re-
- Split duties in reorganisation 25 A rodent almost devoured
- 10 Swindle run by church? (6) 26 12 Using your holiday entitlement? Bon voyagel (5-6) 15 Young lecturer accepts Eng-
- 17 Make great play of, possi-George is hopelessly round the bend - it's outrageous
- to Bit of self-indulgence that is 2 incorporated into routine, mostly? (3-2)

angan kermada di memberah di kecamatan di kecamatan di memberah di mengangan di kecamatan di memberah di menga

- veal profit (6)
- by an insect? Well! (8) Dress, with some hesitation, in horsehair? (6) 27 Security guard given to un-derstand student's hiding

books at home (8)

- DOWN Greek character gets dunga-
- rees extremely tarry he smears people (10) The occasional book, but no regular employment (6, 4) What's new in the fashion
- Hooligans with missiles that can be hurled, by Jove? Let's have details (4, 3, 5) Cup competed for by Round Tablers (4, 5)

INDUGO DEPUTES
O O D A P R N I DE CONTROL
DE UN DE CONTROL
E S G I E SWERVE EXPENDE
H E A T CONTROL
P T E L E SHEEPFOLD DEMUTES
T I G UR ULTAN
P T E L E SHEEPFOLD DEMUTES
CRIMINALGLASSE

- Detail taken from recondite nuscript (4) Uniform, in fact, is a topless number (4) Sever links with underworld
- business partner? (12) Main catchment area? (5.5) Coin princess possibly obtained from mint (10)
- Showing more enthus supporter's put on an item of exercise kit (9) Seaman has an escape route ahroad (5) Layer of dust covering pic-
- Religious artefact often screened? (4)

Win a Weekend Break or a case of Bombardier Premium Bitter CALL 0891 311 017

When you have the answers to the first three clues across AND the first three clues down phone 089t 31t 017 and leave your answers with your name address and daytime telephone number by midmight tonight. Each day there is a case of Charles Wells Bombardier Premium Bitter to win. PLUS from all entries for the week a winner will be secrete of or a Weekend for two in a Charles Wells Country Hotel. Letted for a Weekend for two in a Charles Wells Country Hotel. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate. 49p per minute all other times. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate. 49p per minute all other times. Calls cost 39p per district charles wells with the selected at random from all correct entries received. No cash alternative, Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Winners' names can be obtained by sending an SAE to - Charles Wells Crossword, Unit A, Bowe House. St Peters Road, Maidenhead SL6 7QU

Norman conquers fever

ANDY FARRELL reports from Singapore

Greg Norman has had a lot to get off his chest here this week. Mainly, it has been the infection which was picked up from his son before leaving home on Sunday. That he played at all in the first round of the Johnnie Walker Classic, so earning a reputed £200,000 appearance fee. was a surprise after reports the previous day of his temperature

soaring into the 100s. Then, there was the misclubbing at the 15th on Tanah Merah's Garden Course which landed in the water. His caddie, Tony Navarro, got the hiame for that, if not quite the cluh round his throat. "The worst part," Norman said after a one-underpar 71, "was not having seen the course before. Some holes I didn't know where to go, like on the par-five 15th. I was told to hit it 200 yards and it went 200 two hours. This event may be

You don't like to make stupid mistakes, especially when laying up on a par five. Tony was glad to see me get mad hecause he said that means I care. You have to get it off your chest."

Two years ago, in Phuket, Norman won the title after missing his practice rounds. Then he opened with a 75 to be nine shots behind the lead. This time he found himself only five adrift of his fellow Australian Bradley Hughes and Sweden's Olle Karlsson. "Two years ago, at least, I had been round in a huggy. This is the first time I have played a course hlind in a tournament. On Wednesday it was very doubtful whether I would play. Friends said 1 should go home to Australia to rest for the weekend, hut I felt I was im-

proving." Norman, like all the afternoon starters, was not helped by a thunder and lightning storm which suspended play for almost

yards, straight into the water. only one third European (and one third Australian and one third Asian), but there were enough Englishmen around to appropriate their national cricket team's ability for drought relief. The downpour meant 45 players failed to complete their

rounds after the resumption. The delay prevented Ernie Els joining Ian Woosnam in being honorary bartenders serving the Black Label at a charity do, hut the South African will not have worried after producing a bogey-free 67. Woosnam, too, was prohably unconcerned af-ter an opening 69. Bernhard Langer and the defending champion, Fred Couples, are both lurking on 68, but the round of the day (relatively) belonged to John Daly. The Open champion joined Els on five under, in contrast to his 80 (with an eight at the first) in the same sponsor's World Championship a month ago.

First-round scores. Sporting Digest, page 23

was only persuaded to contin-

ue after a session with the psy-

chologist Mike Brearley, the

His place in the World Cup

squad had gone to the fast

bowler Cameron Cuffy, em-

phasising the absence of gifted all-rounders in the West Indies

The Border Cricket Board

have been fined 5,000 rand

(£914) by the United Cricket

Board of South Africa for

former England captain.

486DX2 50 COLOUR NOTEBOOKS **WORLD FAMOUS JAPANESE MANUFACTURER** DUAL SCAN COLOUR 350Mb DRIVE, 8Mb RAM

Intel 486DX2 processor, built-in Quick Point device Removable 1.44Mb floopy allows use of 2nd battery Soundblaster compatible card, Lithlum-ion battery
PCMCIA II slot, weight 2Kg, 260 x 210 x 48mm
MS-DOS 6.2 and Windows 3.11 2899
Additional battery £49.99

TFT COLOUR MODEL £1199 95

SONY DUAL SPEED CD + WAVE 32. INCLUDES MATH BLASTER AND MS-GOLF CD's Sony internal CD drive, stereo speakers 299 se SHARP UX-135 G3 PERSONAL FAX INCLUDES ONE YEAR ON-SITE WARRANTY

Copy lunction, 10 sheet doc feed £149 OLIVETTI - MORGAN EXCLUSIVE DEAL OLIVETTI MG-450 486DX2 50MHz PROCESSOR 1 14" VGA hi-res colour", UK keyboard" **2599** 0 Olivetti mouse, DOS 6 & Windows 3.1 170Mb/4Mb

170Mb hard drive, 4Mb RAM, 3.5" 1.44Mb floppy drive **2399** 14" VGA colour", UK kbd" DOS/Win 3.1 - "non Olivetti SAMSUNG 630 QUAD SPEED CD

FREE MS-WORKS 3 FOR WINDOWS CD! Internal E-IDE CD drive, 256K RAM 284
230ms access time, ATAPI interface nigital hinote 486SX notebook

SUPERB QUALITY COMPACT MONO NOTEBOOK Intel 486SX 33MHz chlp, 120Mb drive, 4Mb RAM
3.5° 1.44Mb floppy, PCMCIA slot, mains/NiCAD
Weighs 2Kg, DOS 6/Windows 3.1**2593**Lotus Organiser version 1.12

800 dai edi "Windows" laser HIGH RESOLUTION TRIUMPH ADLER SDR 7705G ☐ Fast 5 ppm printing speed, 1 Mib RAM **£349** ☐ PCL 5 emulation for DOS applications **£349**

Prices ex VAT (17.5%) & delivery. Goods subject to availability. E & OE.

I 179 Tottenham Court Road, London Wi Unit 11-12 Station Approach, Piccadilly, A MAIL ORDER DEPARTMENT, CALL NOW ON

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lordon E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Alburs Road, Warfurd Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Hooper pulls out of World Cup abort his tour of England with Tony Cozier reports Cricket the West Indies last summer and

TONY COZIER

Carl Hooper yesterday pulled out of the West Indies World Cup team to which he had been named only the day before. He said he would not be available for the subsequent home series against New Zealand ei-

Hooper told the West Indies board that, "given his mental and physical state over the past his decision had to be made "in his best interest and that of West Indies cricket." He said that once he was hack in shape he would be keen to play for the West Indies again. Hooper's decision coincides with the return of Brian Lara,

whose similarly late withdraw-

on a new problem for the troubled West Citing "personal and health reasons" the Kent all-rounder Indies cricket team

al from the recent tour of Aus-

tralia, although for different rea-sons, highlighted deep divisions within the West Indies team. It places Hooper's international future in obvious doubt. At 29, and a veteran of 52 Tests and 140 one-day internationals, he has never fulfilled his poten-

tial as either a batsman or an offspin bowler for the West Indies. His career has often been dogged by injury and illness and he missed last year's tour of New Zealand after contracting malaria on the preceding tour

of India. He became so disenchanted with the game that he sought to

preparing a substandard pitch for the sixth one-day international between South Africa and England in East London last week. In the match, the sixth of the seven one-day internationals, South Africa were bowled

at present.

dismissed for 115. Waughs lift Australia, page 21

out for 129 and England were

8171-636 11381 B1E1-237 1111